

A Few Interesting Sawfly Records from Southern Scotland (Hym: Symphyta)

By A. D. LISTON*

The following notes concerning sawflies collected in the south of Scotland mostly involve new distributional data. These records should be compared with the distributions given in Benson (1952-58). It should be noted that many species of sawfly were apparently a few weeks late in appearing in Scotland throughout 1979, probably because of the rather cold spring. However, some of the specimens noted here occurred extremely late in comparison with the dates given for them by Benson (*l.c.*) and their delayed time of appearance can not be explained in this way.

TENTHREDINIDAE

Dolerinae

Dolerus liogaster var. *grayi* var. n.

On the 9th of June, 1979, while collecting a series of *Dolerus liogaster* Thomson on Corstorphine Hill in Edinburgh I captured a remarkable female specimen with all its femora, except at the extreme bases, and its tibiae, except for an obscure infusate band subapically on the hind pair, coloured a bright lemon yellow.

Two colour forms of the female of this species are common in Britain: one with the femora and tibiae of all legs more or less marked with red, and the other with them completely black (= *brevitarsis*: Benson, misident. The true *brevitarsis* Hartig is a synonym of *picipes* (Klug) according to a paper by Ermolenko). Benson (1952) states that the red-legged form is rare in Britain, but in my experience of it in Scotland I would say that it is nearly as common as the black-legged form. Males are nearly all of the black-legged variety in Britain. Only once have I found a specimen with red femora and tibiae.

Hellén (1955: 104) records that Lindqvist found a male specimen of *D. gonager* (F.) in Finland which had the normal red colour of its tibiae replaced by yellow. *D. gonager* is closely related to *liogaster* so it seems certain that the Finnish example (var. *flavitibia* Hellén) is of the same type as mine.

It is possible that these yellow marked forms appear more frequently, though still very rarely, in northern regions. *Dolerus willoughbyi* Benson, 1956, from Lapland, is unusual amongst the "Red Section" of *Dolerus* in having yellow markings on legs and abdomen.

I name the yellow-legged form of *liogaster* as var. *grayi* var. n., in gratitude to Mr. T. E. Gray, who as a photographer and naturalist has given me much assistance and advice.

Blennocampinae

Metallus gei (Brischke)

Leaf mines of this sawfly were very common in plants of *Geum rivale* L. growing beside a stream near Leadhills,

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Lanarkshire. On 26th August, 1979, one adult female was obtained by sweeping, and five others were bred from mines which were collected. Benson (1952: 107) says of *M. gei* "Larva common in gardens in S. England and as far north as Roxburghshire . . .". While Leadhills is no further north than Roxburghshire, this locality is quite wild, and at a height of about 1000 ft. in a fairly exposed situation, it possesses a boreal fauna which includes sawfly species such as *Pontania arcticornis* Konow and *P. pustulator* Forsius. Benson does not give the World distribution of *gei*, but it occurs over most of Europe, and also the Caucasus. It reaches to Finland in the northern part of its range: mines are common there (Viramo, 1969) but the adults are just as rare as they are in Britain (Hellén, 1948).

Tenthredininae

Tenthredo mesomelas L.

Lorenz & Kraus (1957) record the larva of this species from *Polygonum persicaria* L., *Arctium lappa* L., *Heracleum*, *Veronica*, *Ranunculus* (p. 75), *Rubus* (p. 319) (I have found larvae of *mesomelas* feeding on *R. idaeus* L. in Britain), *Salix caprea* L. (p. 321), *Solidago*, *Stachys* (p. 323) and *Tussilago* (p. 324). Benson (1958: v) adds *Senecio fuchsii* Gmelin as a foodplant, and remarks (1952: 125) that it is probably polyphagous. Larvae of this species were taken from leaves of *Petasites hybridus* (L.) Gaertn. Mey & Scherb. beside the River Tweed, near St. Boswells, Roxburghshire on 23rd June, 1979. The larvae were subsequently reared on *Ranunculus acris* L. and adults secured. Perhaps it would be as well to stress that the plant was carefully identified so as to verify that it was *Petasites* and not *Tussilago*, which has leaves of a similar shape, but much smaller.

Nematinae

Hoplocampa chrysorrhoea (Klug)

A female was taken from sloe (*Prunus spinosa* L.) growing wild near Lauder, Selkirkshire, on 23rd September, 1979. Benson (1958: 152) records this species as local north to Dumfries. The date of capture is extremely late for this species which normally flies from late April to the end of May. The nature of the life cycle of *Hoplocampa* spp. allows only one generation a year, for the eggs must be laid in the foodplant's ovaries. The capture of a specimen of this insect in September should probably be put down to a freak emergence of one of the sawflies belonging to this year's generation, rather than a survivor from the spring emergence.

Pristiphora pseudocoactula (Lindqvist)

One female was beaten from birch scrub near Gifford, East Lothian, on 22nd July, 1979. This species has been recorded by Benson (1958: 169) from Devon, Surrey, and Hertfordshire in March and April. In Southern England it may therefore have a single brood in the spring. I think that the specimen from Gifford was part of a second brood which may take place in the northern part of the range of *pseudo-*

coactula. Records from Finland are mainly from July and late June, and the single specimen from Canada noted in Benson (1962) was taken in July. Larvae of *Pristiphora staudingeri* (Ruthe) collected from *Salix retusa* L. in the Swiss Alps in early July of 1979 emerged at the end of the month. Presumably these had resulted from eggs laid by sawflies which had belonged to the season's first flight. Some of the boreal *Pristiphora* species may well have an even greater number of generations: Zirngiebl (1953) records a specimen of *Lygaeonematus coactulus* Ruthe (probably *P. breadalbanensis* (Cameron)) found in the Bavarian Alps in late August.

Pachynematus albipennis (Hartig)

Two females were taken at Castle Campbell, near Dollar, Clackmannan, on 27th July, 1979. Benson (1958: 234) recorded this species as occurring north to Kircudbrightshire.

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PALPITA UNIONALIS HBN. (LEP.: PYRALIDAE) IN S. E. ENGLAND. — A worn male of this immigrant species was taken on 4th September 1980. The moth was travelling second class on the 9.40 p.m. Victoria to Ramsgate train, so it is not possible to specify an exact locality. I would like to take this opportunity to express my apologies to the passengers travelling with the moth for the disturbance caused during the capture of this recalcitrant insect. — PAUL SOKOLOFF, Orpington, Kent.

THE LARGE TORTOISESHELL: NYMPHALIS POLYCHLOROS L. IN SURREY IN 1980. — We have an abundance of Small Tortoiseshells here near Guildford, and the Red Admiral and Peacock are also frequent visitors to the garden. However, on the 13th September, a Large Tortoiseshell butterfly was seen by me. It was sitting on the kitchen window sill, where it obligingly remained still for some time with its wings spread out, thus enabling me to make a positive identification detail by detail from the illustration in the *Observers's Book of Butterflies*. — Miss JANET WEIR, c/o The Editor, The Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation.



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