

***Tetrastichus legionarius* Giraud (Hym.: Chalcidoidea: Eulophidae) new to Britain**

A total of six ♂♂ and 26 ♀♀ examples of the chalcid parasite *Tetrastichus legionarius* was reared by me from a single gall of *Lipara lucens* (Diptera: Chloropidae) on a reed *Phragmites australis* stem collected at the Essex Wildlife Trust's Rushey Mead Nature Reserve in the Stort Valley, North Essex, on 12 June 1996 (O.S. grid reference TL 4919).

The species is known as a gregarious endoparasitoid of the larvae and pupae of *Lipara* species in the Netherlands, France, Spain, Austria, Hungary, Italy and the Czech Republic (Graham, 1991. *Memoirs of the American Entomological Institute* 49), but is apparently unrecorded from Britain prior to this record. The specimens are preserved in the Royal Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh.

The Stort Valley is well-blessed with small stands of reed, and though it is not continuous there is a presence of the plant throughout this valley which separates Essex from Hertfordshire. At its termination, the Stort flows into the larger River Lea and in the valley of that river are larger stands of reed in several places. It is thus evident that the chalcid parasite is likely to be present throughout, and perhaps elsewhere, also; like so many other "difficult" species, its apparent absence may well be more a function of under-recording than genuine rarity.

I am most grateful to Dick Askew for the identification of these difficult insects and for casting an eye over this note prior to publication; without his assistance the species would likely have still remained unrecorded from Britain. I also thank the Essex Wildlife Trust for permission to record insects at the Rushey Mead Nature Reserve.— COLIN W. PLANT, 14 West Road, Bishops Cleeve, Herefordshire CM23 2QP.

***Aderus populneus* (Panz.) (Col.: Aderidae) at light in south-east London**

I think it worth noting that a single example of this insect flew to mercury-vapour light here on the night of 20 July 1996, even though the species is somewhat widespread with us and the above habit already documented. *A. populneus* is however in general far from common, especially in more recent times, and, while several records exist for the metropolitan area, they are – I believe without exception – matters of ancient history. For this district one may cite Lee and Lewisham (Fowler, 1891, *Coleoptera of the British Isles* 5: 91). I had only twice before met with this beetle, again singly: Windsor Great Park, swept from oak, 6.viii.1953; and Dartford Reach, W. Kent, swept under an elm, 11.v.1965. On the extraordinary habitat-diversity of *A. populneus*, and certain mysterious aspects of biology, see Allen, 1981, *Ent. Rec.* 93: 208-9; and for instance of its exceptional occurrence in large numbers in special conditions, see Whitehead, 1996, *Ent. mon. Mag.* 132: 194.— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.



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