

***Psychoides filicivora* (Meyr.) (Lep.: Tineidae) and *Caloptilia azaleella* (Brants.) (Lep.: Gracillariidae) in West Kent**

Both of these introduced species have occurred fairly regularly since 1989 at my garden m.v. trap here in Tunbridge Wells. *P. filicivora* has appeared in late April, May, August and November, while *C. azaleella* has appeared in every month from May to September and in November. On 27th November 1994, both species appeared in the trap together, the latest date for each. I understand from A.M. Emmet that this is likely to be the first record of *filicivora* from VC16 (West Kent). Records of *azaeella* were always problematic, as the species does occur indoors on imported plants. As far as I am aware these and others from Petts Wood in the west of the county (taken by D. O'Keeffe) are the only specimens caught in the open from VC16.

– IAN C. BEAVIS, 104 St. James' Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

**A possible sighting of the Large Tortoiseshell, *Nymphalis polychloros* L. in West Sussex**

During a sunny spell in my garden, on 14th March 1995, I saw a butterfly in flight that I took to be a Painted Lady. Shortly afterwards, it settled on a windowsill, and closer examination showed that it was neither Painted Lady nor Small Tortoiseshell. My hesitation is because despite an interest in butterflies that has spanned some 60 years, I have never before seen *polychloros* and thought that the species is probably extinct in this country. March is also a typical post-hibernation date for the species. This specimen was distinctly larger than *urticae*, lacked the blue lunules on the hind wings and had no white colour on the underside. – DAVID SHELDON, 9 Greyfriars Close, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 2DR.

***Acherontia atropos* (Lep.: Sphingidae) breeding in Oxfordshire in 1994**

On 24th August 1994, John Hill obtained two fully-fed larvae of the Death's-head Hawk, *Acherontia atropos*, at East Hendred, Oxfordshire. They had been feeding on jasmine, *Jasminum officinale* (Oleaceae), an alien ornamental from southern Asia and an unusual foodplant for a species which, at least in northern Europe, is especially associated with the Solanaceae. In the tropics, many different foodplants are utilised. Thus, in Sierra Leone I found larvae on *Lantana camera*, *Cleorodendrum fallax* (both Verbenaceae) and *Heliotropium indica* (Boraginaceae); on the Seychelles I found them on *Zinnia* (Compositae). – DENIS F. OWEN, 42 Little Wittenham Road, Long Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 4QS.

***Taphropeltus contractus* (Herrich-Schaeffer) (Het.: Lygaeidae) in west Cumbria**

On 22nd of January 1994 while searching for weevils on South Head, Saint Bees in west Cumbria (NGR NX956.117), I found one adult specimen of the small ground bug *Taphropeltus contractus*. The insect was found in a deep accumulation of leaf litter and humus beneath stunted gorse bush growing on



Owen, Denis F. 1995. "Acherontia atropos (Lep.: Sphingidae) breeding in Oxfordshire in 1994." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 107, 156–156.

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