

LEPTOCERUS TINEIFORMIS CURTIS: A CADDISFLY NEW TO IRELAND FROM POLLARDSTOWN FEN, CO. KILDARE

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IN 1989, the Irish Biogeographical Society set up an "Area of Scientific Interest Committee" in co-operation with the Irish Wildlife Federation. One of the aims of this Committee was to produce a publication by the Society on a Site of International Importance *viz.* Pollardstown Fen (Newbridge Fen), Co. Kildare. This would include a review of published records and the results of IBS surveys in 1989. JPO'C undertook to identify any collected Trichoptera.

The fen, consisting of 150ha, is the best developed one in Ireland and is reputed to have the largest area of saw sedge, *Cladium*, in western Europe. It is relatively recent in origin and its present ecological interest is maintained by alkaline drainage water percolating from the Curragh gravels (Anon, 1981). The area has produced many insect rarities including a hoverfly new to Europe (Speight and Vockeroth, 1988).

On the night of 22nd July 1989, JAG and KGMB operated an m.v. light trap at the fen (grid reference N773155). The trap was placed near *Phragmites*, limestone springs, canal drains and *Schoenus* fen. The catch of caddisflies included a single female of *Leptocerus tineiformis* Curtis. It was identified using Malicky (1983). No species of *Leptocerus* has been taken previously in Ireland (O'Connor, 1987). The Irish list now stands at 146 species.

In Britain, *L. tineiformis* occurs in lakes, large weedy ponds and occasionally canals. It is mainly found in midland and southern England and southern Wales (Wallace, *pers. comm.*). Many adult leptocerids swarm during the day and their activity usually diminishes with darkness. Crichton *et. al.* (1978) have shown that adult leptocerids are rarely caught by light traps far from water. Typically, *L. tineiformis* was poorly represented in the Rothamsted Insect Survey. However, when a light trap was run close to suitable water, as at Millbarn Pond, there were large catches of *L. tineiformis* (Crichton, 1960). It is probable therefore that the Irish specimen originated from one of the canal drains or other suitable habitats near where the trap was situated.

The specimen has been deposited in the National Museum of Ireland.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to Dr I.D. Wallace for providing information on *L. tineiformis* in Britain and for his helpful comments on this paper.

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Scaphisoma assimile Erichson (Col.: Scaphidiidae) in Kent.

On 27th March 1974, I took two specimens of *Scaphisoma* by sieving some fungus-infected plant litter on Hothfield Common (TQ/9645), Kent. N.H. Joy in his *A Practical Handbook of British Beetles*, 1932, gives only *S. agaricinum* (Linn.) and *boleti* (Panzer), but the Hothfield specimens would not satisfactorily fit either species. Recourse was then made to Freude H., Harde K.W. and Lohse G.A., *Die Kafer Mitteleuropas*, Band 3, 1971, where the specimen ran down to *Scaphisoma assimile* Erichson, identification being confirmed by the male genitalia which matched the illustration therein perfectly.

W.W. Fowler in his *The Coleoptera of the British Isles*, Vol. 3, 1889 under *S. assimile* he gives "Introduced by Mr Rye (*Ent. mon Mag.* ii, 140) on a single specimen taken at Coombe Wood; he says of it, "My insect exhibits all the characters, except the narrowness, as compared with *S. boleti*, but I think it can hardly fail to be the true *assimile*" (*Ent. Ann.* 1866, 77). Apart from being listed in both the 1945 and 1977 editions of Kloet & Hincks, *A Check List of British Insects* I have been unable to find any other published records of this species as a British insect.

I must thank Mr A.A. Allen for prompting me to publish this belated record.— ERIC G. PHILP, Natural History Section, Maidstone Museum, St Faith's Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1LH.

A note on the life history of *Semiothisa brunneata* Thunb. (Lep.: Geometridae) Rannoch Looper.

In Skinner (*Moths of the British Isles*, Viking, 1984) it is incorrectly stated that *S. brunneata* overwinters as a small larva. Had the author taken the trouble to consult Buckler (*Larvae of the British Butterflies and Moths*, Vol. VII, Ray Soc., 1896) this crass error could have been avoided. In fact the eggs of *S. brunneata* do not hatch until the early spring as Mr R.G. Chatelain observed when recently rearing this species.— BERNARD SKINNER, 5 Rawlins Close, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 8JS.



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