

late end during the Christmas holiday at Turville Heath, Bucks. Some very mild nights brought out several species and I was able to get some nice forms of *Erranis defolaria* Clerck.

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Notes on *Zygaena* in 1972 and a Holiday in West Scotland

By N. GILL

After becoming increasingly interested in the Zygaenidae I considered the possibilities of taking a holiday in West Scotland with a view to visiting some of the localities of the local species.

Eventually I planned a family holiday for late June, the object being to combine a touring holiday of West Scotland with searching for some of the Scottish subspecies of the genus *Zygaena*.

We left Huddersfield at 7.30 p.m. on 23rd June and arrived at our previously arranged accommodation at Eastrigs, Dumfriesshire, late that evening. On the 24th we motored north to Oban and by way of the Erskine Bridge over the Clyde, Loch Lomond and Inverary arrived there in the early evening. At 7 p.m. we boarded the car ferry to the Isle of Mull and arrived at Craignure at 7.45. On arrival we immediately started motoring north and eventually found accommodation in the small village of Dervaig in the north of the Island. Since it had rained for most of the day, I waited eagerly for the weather forecast on television that night. Fortunately the forecast was brighter weather, which pleased me as I had planned to visit Loch Tuath on the west coast of the island, a locality for *Z. loti scotica* Rowland-Brown.

The morning of the 25th was brighter, though mainly cloudy as we drove down the coast. On arriving, I walked to the shore and began to search for likely *Zygaena* habitats. After a short while I found a patch of *Lotus corniculatus* upon which was a single *Z. loti scotica*. I was surprised to have found *loti* in such a short time, and in high spirits I walked along to a more likely looking part of the shore. Here, after much searching, I found *loti* in some numbers. There was a fresh breeze from the sea, and the moths were found, some freshly emerged, low down on the short herbage. In the afternoon the sun made an appearance and another search was made at the *loti* colony. This time the moths were to be seen more readily.

Later in the afternoon, we visited Calgary Bay, which we had passed on our way down to the coast that morning. After a long search I eventually found a strong colony of *Z. purpuralis caledonensis* Reiss, situated on a high steep bank above the bay, and the moths were in a beautiful, freshly emerged condition.

On the 26th we motored to Carsaig Bay on the south coast of the island, where I searched the steep slopes above the bay, but did not find one single *Zygaena*. On returning to our hotel at Dervaig, I called at the *loti* colony and noted a few specimens on the herbage. Not being able to resist another look at the *purpuralis* colony at Calgary, I also stopped there, and high up on the slope the moths were very common.

On the morning of the 27th we left Dervaig for Craignure where we boarded the car ferry for Oban. The weather had again deteriorated, being dull and very wet, and on arriving on the mainland we headed north for the Isle of Skye. That evening we arrived at Fort William, having taken the short cut across Loch Leven by way of the Balachulish ferry. We decided to stay at Fort William that night and continue on to Skye next morning.

The next morning we visited Glen Nevis before heading north for Skye via Spean Bridge and Invergarry. On the highest mountains north of Fort William there were still large patches of snow. We arrived at the Kilerhea ferry in the late afternoon and were soon on the island and motoring to Portree where we were to stay for three nights.

The 29th was mainly sunny and warm and we visited Talisker on the west coast. I searched the banks and slopes above the shore and found a number of *Zygaena* cocoons which, between 13th and 17th July produced *Z. lonicerae jocelynae* Tremewan. A few *jocelynae* larvae were also found; they were feeding on *Lathyrus pratensis*. Cocoons of *purpuralis* were noted in some numbers attached to the rocks, but as yet, moths were very scarce. At Talisker I also found *Setina irrorella* L. and *Eupithecia pulchellata* Sheldon.

The morning of the 30th was cloudy with a strong wind and I revisited Talisker where I found a few more cocoons which eventually produced a few *Z. filipendulae anglicola* Tremewan. In the afternoon we visited Dunvegan Castle. The weather had become worse with rain or drizzle in the strong wind.

On the morning of 1st July we began making our way home and by the way of the Kyle of Lochalsh ferry, we reached the mainland, eventually arriving home via Edinburgh and the A1 road on the afternoon of 2nd July. Thus ended a wonderful holiday which, in spite of the unsettled weather, had been extremely enjoyable, and highly successful in its object.

On the Saturday after our return from Scotland (8th July) we visited Filey on the Yorkshire coast, the type locality of *Z. lonicerae latomarginata* Tutt and on arrival I searched the slopes above the shore. It was dull and wet, but *lonicerae* was found to be common and freshly emerged, resting on the herbage. Two *Z. f. anglicola* were also found; these were of the seasonal form *stephensi* Dupont, with the broad hindwing border and the small sixth spot through which runs a dark coloured nervule.

On the 9th July I paid a short visit to a *Z. lonicerae transferens* Verity colony at Emley, but although cocoons were numerous, the moths had not yet begun to emerge. The colony is situated on a small, old spoil heap of a coal mine upon which there is a good growth of *Lotus corniculatus*. On the 16th I made a visit to another *transferens* colony at Emley; the moth was common and active in the warm sunshine. This colony is situated on a long narrow piece of rough land which runs alongside a country lane.

A pair of *Z. loti scotica* found in copula at Loch Tuath on 25th June was kept in a glass bottomed box in the hope of obtaining eggs. On the 2nd July a small batch of yellow eggs was noticed on the side of the box, and on the 6th another batch was found to have been laid. The moth also laid small batches on the 13th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th July. On the 13th July, the first batch of eggs had changed to a grey colour and on the 14th they produced greyish green larvae. These were placed in a plastic container with some *Lotus corniculatus* upon which they commenced to feed. On the 17th, the batch of eggs laid on the 6th also produced larvae which were treated in the same way. The small batches of eggs laid between 13th and 20th July proved to be infertile.

During this time, the moth was kept alive by feeding it with sugar dissolved on a moist pad of cotton wool, which it accepted readily. The moth finally died on the 21st July, almost four weeks after it was found, and the day after it had laid its last batch of eggs.

At the time of writing, some of the larvae have just changed their first skin and are growing very slowly, being about one eighth of an inch in length.

26 Mount Pleasant, Emley, Huddersfield. 30.vii.1972.

Microlepidoptera in Gloucestershire

By J. NEWTON B.Sc., F.R.E.S.

In my previous paper on this subject (*Ent. Record*, **73**: 86) I reported a few species of the so-called Microlepidoptera which had come my way since 1953 in Gloucestershire. Here I give a few more which I have recorded since 1961, some of which are new county records and some of which have not been seen for many years, or I have found in new localities in the county. Some parts of the county have changed considerably since T. Bainbrigge-Fletcher and T. Glanville Clutterbuck compiled *The Microlepidoptera of Gloucestershire* in 1938, and although these changes are not all in favour of the survival of some species, it is nevertheless pleasing still to be able to find new species and the spread of others in the county.

PYRALIDINA

Dioryctria abietella D. & Schiff. In the Gloucestershire list there are two records only, one for the Stroud district (Davis,



Gill, N. 1972. "Notes on Zygaena in 1972 and a holiday in west Scotland." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 84, 276–278.

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