

strongly indicative of adults emerging from overwintering sites, having developed as larvae the previous year. It is not known how the beetle may have arrived at Wisley in the first place. No plants from countries where the rosemary beetle occurs had been received by the propagation department during the period when the beetles were found, or in the preceding months. The Garden is close to the M25 and A3 roads and it is possible that a beetle may have hopped off a passing lorry. More likely perhaps is that the beetle may have arrived amongst plants obtained from elsewhere in Europe for the Garden or for its plant sales centre. During the summer of 1994 plants of rosemary and lavender growing at Wisley Garden were examined for signs of feeding, and beaten to try and dislodge aestivating adults, but none was found. It would appear that if *C. americana* did manage to breed at Wisley it had very limited success.

The three specimens of *C. americana* now reside in the collections of the Natural History Museum, London, the BENHS at Dinton Pastures Country Park, Berks, and the RHS at Wisley Garden.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Sharon Shute of the Department of Entomology, Natural History Museum for confirming the identity of the beetle and directing me to references about its biology and previous occurrence in Britain.

#### REFERENCES

- Balachowsky, A. S. 1963. *Entomologie appliquée à l'agriculture Tome 1 Coléoptères*, second volume. Masson & Co, Paris, pp. 638–639.  
 Johnson, C. 1963. *Chrysolina americana* L. (Col., Chrysomelidae) in Britain. *Entomologist's Mon. Mag.* **99**: 228–229.

#### SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

***Rhopalum coarctatum* (Scop.) (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae) nesting in a case of *Taleporia tubulosa* Retz. (Lepidoptera: Psychidae).**—A solitary wasp labelled as having been reared 23.vi.1972 from a psychid moth case taken at Pirbright, Surrey, was amongst aculeates in the collection of the late E. S. Bradford, now being added to the BENHS collections. Eric Bradford was a microlepidopterist. The data label queries whether the unexpected emergence betokened unwanted parasitism. The psychid case was not retained, so it is not possible to exonerate the wasp, which more usually stores its aphid prey in plant stems.—R. W. J. UFFEN, 4 Mardley Avenue, Welwyn, Hertfordshire AL6 0UD.

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**Early hibernation of a queen wasp?**—On 27.vii.95, I unearthed a hibernating queen of the social wasp *Dolichovespula media* (Retz.) from beneath a rotten log in the woods of Beckenham Place Park, south-east London (TQ385706; VC 16, West Kent). Although this species is known to finish its season early (M. E. Archer, personal communication), the end of July seems a particularly early date to find a queen ready to “overwinter”. Elsewhere in the park, subterranean nests of the “common” wasp, *Vespa vulgaris* (L.) were active well into October 1995.—RICHARD A. JONES, 13 Bellwood Road, Nunhead, London SE15 3DE.



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