

ENTOMOLOGICAL SUB-SECTION

RECORDERS' NOTES, 1953

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LEPIDOPTERA (Butterflies and Moths), 1953

January. Anticyclonic weather predominated, resulting in a rainfall of only 18% of the average: temperature was somewhat below normal but the last week was very mild, with a screen reading of 57 deg. on 29th. Sunshine was only 64% of the average. Winter Moths persisted at light until 12th, and the Pale Brindled Beauty appeared on 10th and 12th. On the warm night of 29th *Conistra vaccinii* (Chestnut) came out from hibernation. *Depressaria applana* and *D. yeatiana* were less common than usual.

February gave plenty of variety, so far as the weather was concerned: the first half was very cold and the second half very mild. Rainfall was 66% of average, and practically all of it occurred in the latter half of the month. Sunshine was about average, but it was really confined to the 1st and last weeks. The Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly was first seen on 22nd, and the Peacock on 27th. Single specimens of the Common Quaker and the Early Moth came to light, and *Ypsolophus mucronellus* was taken on an Apple trunk at Bickenhall on 25th.

March. The mean pressure was remarkably high (during the first fortnight it was 1040 mbrs.), producing persistent thick fog, and low temperatures, but later sunshine records were high. Rainfall was again much below the average—35%. Owing to the cold nights the light traps produced little of interest, until the end of the month, when the 'Sallow-feeders' began to arrive in fair numbers—*Orthosia gothica* (Hebrew Character), *O. cruda* (Small Quaker), *Xylocampa areola* (Early Grey), etc.

April shared with October in being the only two wet months of this very dry year. Rainfall was about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the normal, and it was a cold month, although sunshine was just average. Among the butterflies, Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells were now well out, and other newcomers were Speckled Wood, Comma, Brim-

stone and Orange-tip. The moths noted in March continued to arrive at the traps, and other interesting species included :—

Drymonia ruficornis (Lunar Marbled Brown).

Notodonta ziczac (Pebble Prominent).

Cerastis rubricosa (Red Chestnut).

Opisthographis luteolata (Brimstone Moth).

Lycia hirtaria (Brindled Beauty).

Depressaria ocellana.

May proved to be average in all respects, although there were some very warm nights towards the end of the month. The most noteworthy event this month was the capture at m.v. light of a female of the beautiful Crimson Speckled Moth at Taunton: a specimen was recorded from Burnham-on-Sea in 1933. A perfect *Pyrausta nigrata* was captured at Walton, the other record for the County being long ago, and mentioned in the Victoria County History. Among other captures may be mentioned :—

At Bickenhall *Notodonta anceps* (Great Prominent).

Pheosia tremula (Swallow Prominent).

Cerura furcula (Sallow Kitten).

Pterostoma palpina (Pale Prominent).

Dasycampa rubiginea (Dotted Chestnut).

Eilema sororcula (Orange Footman).

Xylomyges conspicillaris (Silver Cloud).

Eupithecia irriguata (Marbled Pug.)

Oecophora geoffrella.

At Luccombe *Lampronia oehlmanniella*.

At Broomfield *Parasemia plantaginis* (Wood Tiger). Common at Ruborough Camp. (A. N. Marriage).

June was generally a dull month, with rainfall somewhat above the average, a large deficiency of sunshine, and very low temperatures. (A maximum of 56% was the lowest at Bickenhall since 1921). A perfect male of the *Alder Kitten came to m.v. light at Bickenhall on 5th. This is a new county record. *Hypsopygia glaucinalis*, a moth usually associated with old haystacks, came to light at Bickenhall; it was reported from Shapwick many years ago; *Argyroploce rosaceana* was also taken at Bickenhall; there is only one other record for the county—Blue Anchor in 1913. *Pyrrhia umbra* (Bordered Sallow) was taken at Frome, it does not appear to have been recorded since 1920. A specimen of the Long-horn Moth *Nemophora degeerella* was taken at Luccombe, last reported from Withycombe in 1913.

July. The days were cool, but the nights relatively warm, and this gave a temperature near the average. Sunshine was just about normal, but rainfall was below, amounting to 88%. A feature of the month was the low intensity of the sunlight. Nothing really exciting was reported, but at Bickenhall, the following moths came to the traps :—

Euphyia cuculata (Royal Mantle). A single specimen was taken in similar circumstances last year, otherwise there have been no records for many years.

Yponomeuta evonymella : the last record was at Taunton in 1913.

August. Sunshine was somewhat above average and rainfall slightly below, otherwise an average month. The Monarch Butterfly was seen at Upton (P. E. Smart) ; hardly a year passes now without this species turning up somewhere. The Brown Hairstreak was again about in small numbers at Bickenhall. *Laphygma exigua* (the immigrant Small Mottled Willow) turned up at Weston-super-Mare, and the usually uncommon " Pinion " moths *Cosmia pyralina* and *C. diffinis* were both reported : *C. pyralina* was taken at m.v. light at Frome, and *C. diffinis* turned up in numbers at Bickenhall. Of the former there is only a very doubtful record many years ago, and the latter has been recorded from Cannington. *Nephoptyx semirubella* was taken at Compton Dundon ; this moth has not been reported since 1933, when it was taken at Shapwick. The following came to light at Bickenhall :—

Pheosia gnoma (Lesser Swallow Prominent).

Miana literosa (Rosy Minor)—(also at Taunton).

Trichiura crataegi (Pale Oak Eggar).

Mecyna asinalis.

Phlyctaenia crocealis.

Euzophora pinguis.

Oidaematophorus lithodactylus.

Whilst at Taunton a specimen of *Chilodes maritima* (Silky Wainscot) was taken at m.v. light ; last recorded at Bridgwater in 1922.

September was another average month with prevailing southerly winds and nights free from early frosts. The Striped Hawk-moth was seen at Weston-super-Mare, but otherwise there were no

reports of unusual captures. Among the commoner autumn visitors to light at Bickenhall may be mentioned :—

Asphalia diluta (Lesser Lutestring).

Atethmia centrago (Centre-barred Sallow).

Peronea literana.

Depressaria alstromeriana.

and *Anthophila pariana*, a little moth which generally flies in bright sunshine ; it was taken at Bickenhall in 1948, and had not been seen since. It now turned up in numbers in the light-trap.

October. The first half was very dry, but later there was much rain, which caused the month's total to be the highest of the whole year. Sunshine was about average. Nothing of interest was reported, but a specimen of *Peronea boscana* was taken at Bickenhall.

November. A very dry and quiet month, with temperatures round the normal. The rainfall was only 59% of the average. Many of the autumn butterflies and moths persisted throughout the month. *Lithophane socia* (Pale Pinion) was taken in the house at Bickenhall.

December proved to be one of the mildest on record. On the 2nd and 3rd the thermometer reached 58 deg., and at night did not fall below 55. The month was also excessively dry with rainfall only 26% of the average. The December Moth was about nearly until the new year, whilst the Silver Y and *Nomophila noctuella* were seen at Bickenhall as late as 13th. *Erannis aurantiaria* (Scarce Umber) and *Exapate congelatella* were both common at light.

A. H. TURNER,

Recorder.

COLEOPTERA (Beetles), 1953.

The following selection has been made from the species found this year and is based mainly on the local occurrence of the insect or some point of interest in its habitat.

Staphylinoidea.

**Calyptomerus dubius* (Marsh). North Hill, Minehead. In vegetable refuse, August. The Clambidae are minute convex insects and have the power of rolling themselves up into a ball.

Scydmaenus tarsatus Müll. North Hill, Minehead. In decayed grass-cuttings, July, August. Fairly common in Southern and Midland counties ; rarer further north and in Scotland.

- Metopsia clypeata* (Müll.) } North Hill, Minehead. In vegetable refuse, July, August. *M.*
- **Megarthus denticollis* (Beck.) } *denticollis* is rather rare in the south and common further north. The distribution of *M. affinis* is the reverse; not recorded from Scotland although not uncommon in England.
- **M. affinis* Mill. }
- Eusphalerum primulae* (Steph.). Asham Woods, Downhead. In primrose flowers, May. Previously recorded in similar habitat at Long Ashton between 1914-16 (C. T. Gimingham, *Ent. mon. Mag.* 55).
- **Stenus guynemeri* du Val. Horner Woods. Under stones by edge of stream, May. Local and chiefly found in hilly and mountainous districts.
- **Dianous coeruleus* (Gyll). Alcombe and Holford. Under stones by edge of swiftly running streams, sometimes partly submerged. The species is sub-aquatic.
- **Quedius lateralis* (Gr.). Crowcombe. Feeding on decaying fungi, September.
- **Philonthus sanguinolentus* (Gr.). Walton Heath. Swept from dykeside vegetation, July.
- **Autalia impressa* (Ol.). North Hill, Minehead; Crowcombe. In decaying fungi, September.
- **A. rivularis* (Gr.). North Hill, Minehead. In decayed grass cuttings, September.
- **Euplectus sanguineus* Denny. North Hill, Minehead. In vegetable refuse, July, September.

Clavicornia.

- **Nemosoma elongatum* (L.). Wembdon Hill. Under bark on old wooden fence, April. Parasitic on *Pteleobius vittatus* (F.) of which several dead specimens were found in the burrows. "Of very rare occurrence, but sometimes locally common" (Fowler).
- Pocadius ferrugineus* (F.). } North Hill, Minehead. In Lycoperdons (puff-balls), October.
- Lycoperdina bovistae* (F.). }
- **Cryptophagus lycoperdi* (Scop.). } The first two species previously recorded in similar habitat at Long Ashton between 1914-16 (C. T. Gimingham, *Ent. mon. Mag.* 55).
- **Rhizophagus ferrugineus* (Pk.). Horner Woods. Under bark of old log, May.

- Monotoma picipes* Hbst. } North Hill, Minehead. In decayed
M. bicolor Villa. } grass cuttings, August, September.
M. longicollis Gyll. }
 **Scymnus frontalis* (F.). North Hill, Minehead. One in house
 porch, April.

Heteromera.

- **Abdera flexuosa* (Pk.). Holford. In fungoid growth on alder and
 willow, May. Very local.
Melandrya caraboides (L.). Berrow. On old tree stump lying on
 the sands, June.
Scaphidema metallicum (F.). Dunster. One crawling on turf just
 above beach. Usually found in decaying branches and old tree
 stumps. Local.

Lamellicornia.

- Aphodius equestris* (Pz.). Horner Woods. Plentiful in horse dung,
 May. Very local; previously recorded from Stratton-on-the
 Fosse district between 1931-32 (A. A. Allen, *Ent. mon. Mag.* 71).
 **A. plagiatus* (L.). Alcombe marshes. On muddy edge of dyke,
 June. Rarely occurs in dung like the rest of the genus. The
 general habitat is in damp places, under stones, in flood refuse,
 etc. Local.

Phytophaga.

- Donacia clavipes* F. One found on boat between Weston-super-
 Mare and Steep Holm, May.
Chrysolina hyperici (Forst.). North Hill, Minehead; Watchet
 Warren. Very abundant on *Hypericum* spp. in late spring and
 early summer. A. D. Imms mentions in *Insect Natural History*
 that this species had been one of the insects introduced into
 Australia during 1917 in an attempt to control *Hypericum per-
 foratum* which had found its way into that country in 1870 and
 had since become a widespread pest, eliminating pasture grasses
 and proving poisonous to stock. The beetle has become estab-
 lished locally and is increasing.
 **Aphthona venustula* Kutsch. Asham Woods, Downhead. On
Euphorbia amygdaloides (wood spurge), May. Local.
Psylliodes affinis (Pk.). Watchet Warren. On *Solanum dulcamara*
 (bittersweet), August. Local.

Rhynchophora.

- Platyrhinus resinosus* (Scop.). Collard Hill, Compton Dundon. On *Daldinia concentrica* growing on ash, May. Previously recorded in similar habitat from Long Ashton in 1919 (C. T. Gimingham, *Ent. mon. Mag.* 55) and Stratton-on-the-Fosse district between 1931-32 (A. A. Allen, *Ent. mon. Mag.* 71). Rare.
- Apoderus coryli* (L.). Horner Woods. On hazel, May. A very conspicuous insect as it sits on the leaves in the sun. Previously recorded from West Hatch in 1947 (A. H. Turner).
- **Barynotus moerens* (F.). Asham Woods, Downhead; May. Local and as a rule, not common.
- Larinus planus* (F.). North Hill, Minehead. On thistles; the larvae live in the flower heads of the plants; May. Very local.
- **Caulotrumpis aeneopiceus* (Boh.). North Hill, Minehead. Abundant in dead elder wood. Local.
- **Eremotes ater* (L.). Hawkcombe, Porlock. Two specimens of this uncommon wood borer were found during June in a decayed pine stump. A further intensive search the next day for more beetles proved fruitless. This was hardly unexpected, as the area was by that time swarming with *Formica rufa*.
- **Sibinia primita* (Hbst.). North Hill, Minehead. Occasionally taken during spring and early summer in garden on Cruciferae, chiefly *Alyssum maritimum*. Very local.
- Rhinoncus inconspicuum* (Hbst.). Minehead. Several swept from *Polygonum* spp. in damp meadow by a stream during August. Very local. Previously recorded from Uphill in 1951 and Weston-super-Mare (Fowler, *Brit. Coleoptera*).
- **Orobitis cyaneus* (L.). North Hill, Minehead. Found hibernating in November under cut grass in field. The larvae live in the seedpods of *Viola canina* (dog violet). The beetle, a small shining bluish black globose insect, could easily be passed over as a seed when legs and rostrum are retracted. Local.
- **Mononychus punctum-album* (Hbst.). Berrow. Taken on buttercup flowers in June. The larvae feed in the seed-pods of *Iris foetidissima* (fetid iris). Very local.
- **Hylastinus obscurus* (Marsh). North Hill, Minehead. Two
- **Phloeophthorus rhododactylus* (Marsh). species of bark beetles found under bark of dead wood on *Ulex europaeus* (furze) in November. In the case of *P. rhododactylus* the beetles appeared

to be hibernating at the end of the larval burrows and were usually found in pairs. The majority of *H. obscurus* found were dead. Local.

W. A. WILSON,

Recorder.

ORTHOPTERA (Grasshoppers).

Acheta domestica (L.). Cannington, in open, 8 Sept., 1953 (R.C., det. J.C.). The house cricket, not before recorded from Somerset South.

PLECOPTERA (Stone-flies).

The two following species have not been recorded before from Somerset North:

Nemurella inconspicua (Pictet). Priddy, 24 May, 1952.

Leuctra geniculata Steph. Blagdon Reservoir, a few adults on water of shallow bays of west side, 30 Sept., 1947 (J. R. H.).

EPHEMEROPTERA (Mayflies).

Ephemera danica Müller. Dunster, 21 May, 1953. Previously recorded from the county but without locality.

Ephemerella ignita (Poda). Blagdon Reservoir, Mendip, a few sub-imagines on outflow stream a few hundred yards below reservoir, 30 Sept., 1947 (J. R. H.). First record for Somerset North.

**Caenis horaria* (L.). Chilton Trinity clay pits, hundreds of sub-imagines and imagines in evening on parked car, 23 May, 1953.

Baëtis scambus Eaton. Blagdon Reservoir, Mendip, a few sub-imagines on outflow stream a few hundred yards below reservoir, 30 Sept., 1947 (J. R. H.). First record for Somerset North.

**Heptagenia sulphurea* (Müller). Vallis Vale, Selwood, 12 Sept., 1953.

HEMIPTERA HETEROPTERA (Bugs).

**Shirus luctuosus* Muls. & Rey. Bickenhall, 1949; Thurlbear, Orchard Portman, 21 May, 1949.

**Elasmotethus interstinctus* (L.). Orchard Portman, on birch, 25 May, 1946; Dunster, 21 May, 1953; Walton Heath, on birch, 5 Sept., 1949; Shapwick Heath, 20 May, 1950.

- Elasmucha grisea* (L.). Walton Heath, on birch, 5 Sept., 1948 ; Shapwick Heath, 20 May, 1950, 4 Aug., 1953. This species will be an addition to the county list if an old record from "the Bristol district" does not refer to Somerset, as it may not.
- **Picromerus bidens* (L.). Ley Hill, Porlock, 20 Aug., 1947 (B. R. L.) ; Catcott Heath, 12 Sept., 1950, 13 Aug., 1951 ; Edington Heath, 3 Aug., 1948 ; Edington, 16 Sept., 1950 ; Street Heath, Sharpham, 14 Sept., 1949.
- **Dicranomerus agilis* (Scop.). Leigh Woods, 30 May, 1950.
- **Chorosoma schillingii* (Schumm.). Berrow, among marram grass, 5 Aug. and 1 Sept., 1953.
- Neides tipularius* (L.). Charlton Mackrell, 8 Aug., 1953.
- Gampsocoris punctipes* (Germar). Berrow, numerous under rest-harrow, 5 Aug., 1953.
- **Miridius quadrivirgatus* (Costa). Kilve, 10 Aug., 1936 (L. W. G.) ; Bickenhall, 16 July, 1953.
- **Miris striatus* (L.). Bickenhall, 1949.
- **Pachylops bicolor* (D. & S.). Williton, 14 Aug., 1935 (L. W. G.).

MECOPTERA (Scorpion-flies).

- Panorpa cognata* Ramb. Vallis Vale, Elm, one female, 12 Sept., 1953 ; Ebbor, St. Cuthbert Out, one male, 20 Sept., 1953 (C. F. S. A., det. J. C.). Much less frequently met with than the other two common British species.

TRICHOPTERA (Caddis-flies).

- Limnephilus flavicornis* (F.). Wembdon, in m.v. light trap, 5 Aug., 1953 ; new for Somerset South.
- L. marmoratus* Curt. Wembdon, in m.v. light trap, 4, 5 and 6 Aug., 1953 ; new for Somerset South.
- L. lunatus* Curt. Edington, June, Sept. and Oct., 1945-48 ; new for Somerset North.
- L. centralis* Curt. Holford, 5 Sept., 1947 ; Rams Combe, Over Stowey, 26 Sept., 1953 ; new for Somerset South.
- L. affinis* Curt. Catcott Heath, 14 Sept., 1950 ; Berrow, 11 June, 1950 ; Bawdrip, 4 June, 1953. New for Somerset North.
- L. auricula* Curt. Not previously recorded for Somerset North, although it is very common (Street Heath, Shapwick, Edington, Cossington, Ebbor Wood, West Town, 1945-52) ; in m.v. light trap, Wembdon, 5 Aug., 1953.

- **Apatidea muliebris* (McL.). Holford, 15 April, 1953; det. D. E. Kimmins.
- Goëra pilosa* (F.). River Brue, Edington, 23 June, 1945; new for Somerset North.
- Beraea pullata* (Curt.). Britty Common, Staple Fitzpaine, 25 June, 1950; new for Somerset South.
- Athripsodes aterrimus* (Steph.). Durleigh, mill pool, 25 June, 1950; new for Somerset South.
- A. cinereus* (Curt.). River Brue, Edington, 3 July, 1946; new for Somerset North.
- Mystacides longicornis* (L.). Wembdon, in m.v. light trap; 4 Aug., 1953; new for Somerset South.
- Holocentropus picicornis* (Steph.). Shapwick Heath, June, 1953 (K. G. B.); new for Somerset North.
- Cyrnus trimaculatus* (Curt.). River Brue, Edington, 23 June, 1945; 3 July, 1946; Redlynch Lake, Bruton, 7 June, 1952; new for Somerset North.
- Philopotamus montanus* (Don.). Priddy, 24 May, 1952; new for Somerset North.

HYMENOPTERA.

Symphya (Saw-flies).

Many of the species below, although apparently not recorded from the county before, are common or generally distributed.

- Sirex noctilio* (F.). White Ball, Sampford Arundel, some time before 1916 (F. Milton collection in the County Museum, det. J. C.); the only other record for the county is an equally old one from Portishead. One of the so-called wood wasps, an established alien.
- Hartigia linearis* (Schrank). Edington, 19 July, 1953; previously only one old record from "Bristol" which may have been from either Gloucestershire or Somerset.
- **Cephus pygmaeus* (L.). The notorious wheat-stem borer, no doubt common all over the county, though specimens have only been casually collected from Edington and Shapwick.
- **Arge fuscipes* (Fall.). Thurlbear, Orchard Portman, May, 1952.
- **Abia sericea* (L.). Shapwick Heath, June, 1953 (K. G. B.); Catcott Heath, 16 May, 1946, 8 Aug., 1951; Loxley Wood,

- Shapwick, 24 April, 1949 ; Britty Common, Staple Fitzpaine, 17 June, 1951.
- **A. candens* Konow. Loxley Wood, Shapwick, 8 July, 1945.
- **Trichiosoma tibiale* Steph. Misterton, bred 9 March, 1927, from cocoon on *Crataegus* (A. R. Hayward, in the County Museum collection, det. J. C.).
- **Stromboceros delicatulus* (Fall.). West Town, Brockley, 29 May, 1950 ; Dunster, 21 May, 1953.
- **Melisandra cinereipes* (F.). Edington, 22 May, 1944 ; Catcott Heath, 24 Aug., 1947.
- **Selandria serva* (F.). Catcott, 21 May, 1944 ; Catcott Heath, 16 May, 1946 ; Edington, 19 May, 1945 ; Westhay Heath, Meare, 25 Aug., 1950 ; Kingsbury Episcopi, 17 and 28 May, 1945 (L. H. W.).
- **S. sixii* Voll. Edington Burtle, 3 July, 1946 ; Edington Heath, 7 July, 1946. Local.
- **Dolerus aericeps* Thoms. Edington Burtle, 3 July, 1946.
- **D. cothurnatus* Lep. Catcott Heath, 28 May, 1945, 16 May, 1946.
- **D. ferrugatus* Lep. Street Heath, Sharpham, 4 May, 1950. Local.
- **D. puncticollis* Thoms. Edington, 5 May, 1946 ; Kingsbury Episcopi, 17 May, 1945 (L. H. W.).
- **D. niger* L. Edington, 8 May to 24 June, 1944-48 ; Cossington, 25 May, 1945 ; Loxley Wood, Shapwick, 31 May, 1947.
- **D. picipes* Klug. Edington, 20 May, 1944 ; Kingsbury Episcopi, 17 May, 1945 (L. H. W.).
- **Athalia liberta* (Klug). Edington, 7 May, 1946. Usually uncommon.
- **Ametastegia equiseti* (Fall.). Shapwick Heath, June, 1933 (K. G. B.).
- **A. glabrata* (Fall.). Edington Burtle, 3 July, 1946.
- Allantus calceatus* (Klug). Edington, 22 May, 1944, 21 Aug., 1950 ; Street Heath, Sharpham, 7 Aug., 1944. A common species, but we only had an old record from "Bristol."
- **A. cinctus* (L.). Edington, 10 to 21 May, 1945-47.
- **A. cingulatus* (L.). Kingsbury Episcopi, 28 May, 1945 (L. H. W.).
- Apethymus braccatus* (Gmel.). Holford, 30 Aug., 1947. Local : one old record from "Bristol."
- **Eutomostethus gagathinus* (Klug.). Edington Heath, 13 June, 1947. Scarce.

- **Stethomostus fuliginosus* (Schrank). Edington, 6 May, 1947.
- **Rhadinoceraea micans* (Klug). Local, but common where found, on its foodplant *Iris pseudacorus* L., Edington, 18 April to 18 May, 1944-50; Shapwick Heath, June, 1933 (K. G. B.), 11 May, 1953; Minehead Warren, 21 May, 1953.
- **Monophadnoides geniculata* (Hartig.) Edington, 9 May, 1946, 9 May, 1950.
- **Halidamia affinis* (Fall.). Edington, 2 May, 1946. Occurs sparingly in Britain.
- **Aglaostigma aucupariae* (Klug). Edington, 29 March to 15 May, 1945-50; Catcott Heath, 24 May, 1947.
- **Rhogogaster punctulata* (Klug). Loxley Wood, Shapwick, 20 June, 1948; Bishopswood, Otterford, 19 June, 1952.
- **R. chlorosoma* (Benson). Street Heath, Sharpham, 11 July, 1945, 24 June, 1950; Catcott Heath, 24 June, 1944; Wellington district (F. Milton collection in County Museum, det. J. C.); Kingsbury Episcopi, 17 and 28 May, 1945 (L. H. W.).
- **R. viridis* (L.). Street Heath, Sharpham, 11 July, 1945, 24 July, 1948; Catcott Heath, 24 June, 1944, 27 May, 1948; Edington Heath, 23 May, 1946; Asham Wood, Downhead, 25 May, 1952; Holford, 12 June, 1948. Two earlier records from the county are now doubtful as they were published before *R. dryas* (Benson) and *R. chlorosoma* had been distinguished from the composite *R. viridis*.
- **Tenthredo maculata* Geoffr. Holford, 12 June, 1948; Priddy, female at sycamore flowers, 24 May, 1952. Widespread but sporadic.
- T. moniliata* Klug. Britty Common, Staple Fitzpaine, associated there as elsewhere with *Menyanthes trifoliata* L., 10 June, 1950, 17 June, 1951.
- **T. atra* L. Edington and Edington Heath, 19 May to 26 July, 1944-49; Kingsbury Episcopi, 17 and 28 May, 1945 (L. H. W.).
- **T. ferruginea* Schrank. Wellington district (F. Milton collection in County Museum, det. J. C.).
- **T. marginella* F. Bulland valley, Huish Champflower, 1940's (F. R. B.). Local.
- **T. arcuata* Forst. Edington, 5 May to 4 June, 1944-48. The one earlier record from the county is now doubtful as it was published before it was appreciated that *T. perkinsi* and *T. acerrima*

were included under the name *T. arcuata* of the older British authors.

- **T. acerrima* Benson. Edington, 22 July, 1945; East Harptree, 19 July, 1945; Rookham Wood, St. Cuthbert Out, 19 July, 1945.
- **T. perkinsi* (Morice). Cross, Axbridge, 1940's (F. R. B.); East Harptree, 19 July, 1945; Rookham Wood, St. Cuthbert Out, 19 July, 1945; Bin Combe, Over Stowey, 1 Sept., 1950; Bulland valley, Huish Champflower, 29 Aug., 1951.
- **Pachyprotasis rapae* (L.). Edington, 22 May, 1944; Edington Heath, 23 May, 1946.
- **Macrophya rufipes* (L.). Edington, 3 and 4 June, 1944; Moorlinch, 22 May, 1950; Kingsbury Episcopi, 17 and 28 May, 1945 (L.H.W.).
- **M. albicincta* (Schrank). Edington, 11 May, 1946, 8 and 9 May, 1947; West Town, Brockley, 29 May, 1950; Ebbor Wood, St. Cuthbert Out, 10 May, 1952; Over Stowey, 24 May, 1946; Buncombe Wood, Broomfield, 14 May, 1952.

Aculeata (Ants, Bees, Wasps).

Chrysididae.

- **Omalus aeneus* (F.). Loxley Wood, Shapwick, 5 July, 1947, det. G. M. Spooner.
- **O. puncticollis* Mocsary. Loxley Wood, Shapwick, 10 July, 1946, det. G. M. Spooner. Rare; new to the British list (though from other counties also), formerly confused with *O. violaceus*.
- **O. violaceus* (Scop). Edington, 17 Aug., 1946, det. G. M. Spooner. Rare.

Sphecidae.

- Tachysphex nitidus* (Spin.). Recorded from Burnham in 1923; not uncommon on the Berrow dunes, 25 May to 11 June, 1950-51.
- T. pompiliiformis* (Panz.). Two old records from Burnham and Berrow; apparently not common on the Berrow dunes as only very few specimens have since been obtained there, 17 and 20 July, 1950.
- Mimesa dahlbomi* Wesm. An old record from Burnham is doubtful and may really be another species; subsequently recorded from Shapwick, and now from Edington, 3 and 9 June, 1947.
- Crabro peltarius* (von. Schreber). There are two old records from Burnham and Kewstoke; apparently not common on the Berrow

dunes as during many visits there only two specimens have been noticed, 6 June, 1951, and 14 June, 1952.

Coelocrabro ambiguus (Dahlbom). Edington, 7 Aug., 1950; there is one old record from Freshford.

Crossocerus tarsatus (Shuck). Wembdon, 19 June, 1951; previously only recorded long ago from Taunton and Brean Down.

Clytochrysus zonatus (Panz.). Edington, 17 July, 1945; one old record from Wells, 1907.

Corynopus coarctatus (Scop.). Durleigh, 9 June and 26 Aug., 1950.

DIPTERA (True flies).

Rhagionidae.

Xylophagus ater Mg. Holford, on dead tree trunks, 23 May, 1953; previously only an old record from Leigh Woods. Rare.

Empididae.

**Rhamphomyia maculipennis* Zett. Berrow, 13 May, 1951; Clevedon, 14 May, 1951.

**R. spinipes* (Fall.). Crowcombe, 26 Sept., 1953.

**R. sulcatella* Collin. Clevedon, 6 May, 1950.

**R. nitidula* Zett. Holford, 23 May, 1953.

Dolichopodidae.

**Tachytrechus notatus* (Stann.). Berrow, numbers running on a small area of wet sandy mud at landward edge of salt marsh, 6 June, 1953; although many of the species of this family notoriously occur in very localised colonies, yet this particular patch of mud has often been examined in recent years (as well as other parts of the salt marsh) without this species having been found among the Dolichopodids that frequent it.

Syrphidae.

Criorhina ranunculi (Panz.). Asham Wood, Downhead, 2 May, 1953.

Trypetidae.

**Xyphosia (Icteric) westermanni* (Mg.). Portishead, 14 Aug., 1951 (H. B.); Clevedon, 14 Aug., 1951 (H. B.).

Helomyzidae.

**Helomyza humilis* Mg. West Hill (above Crowcombe), Over Stowey, on fungi, 26 Sept., 1953.

Clusiidae.

**Paraclusia tigrina* (Fall.). Bickenhall, 14 Aug., 1951. Rare.

Muscidae.

**Hera variabilis* (Fall.). Horner Woods, Luccombe, 24 May, 1953.

**H. longipes* (Zett.). Horner Woods, Luccombe, 24 May, 1953.

Phaonia mystica (Mg.). Holford, 23 May, 1953; Horner Woods, Luccombe, 24 May, 1953.

Piezura pardalina Rond. Crowcombe, on leaves of sycamore, 26 Sept., 1953.

**Mydaea spinipes* Karl. Blagdon, Mendip, 13 June, 1953; only added to the British list in this year.

Mycophaga fungorum (Degeer). Crowcombe, on leaves of sycamore, 26 Sept., 1953.

Pegomya dentiens Pand. Walton-in-Gordano Moor, 21 April and 12 May, 1951, also bred from stems of *Filipendula ulmaria* (L.) Maxim. from there.

**Delia triangulata* Karl. Leigh Woods, 5 May, 1949; an addition to the British list.

**Coenosia flavicauda* Ringdahl. Horner Woods, Luccombe; only added to the British list in 1953.

**C. pudorosa* Collin. Holford, 23 May, 1953; this new species was described at the end of 1953 from Devon specimens.

Hippoboscidae.

Lipoptena cervi (L.). Crowcombe, two males alighted on clothes, 26 Sept., 1953; this, the deer ked, had only previously been recorded recently from Buncombe.

OPILIONES (Harvestmen).

T. H. Savory (1948, *Synopses of the British Fauna*, No. 1) details the counties from which the less common species have been recorded, but does not give Somerset for the species below marked with an asterisk; the identifications of these (except for the first two, common, species) have kindly been checked by Mr. J. H. Murgatroyd.

‡*Nemastoma lugubre* (Müller). Steep Holm, under rotting wooden plank, 26 April, 1953.

**Leiobunum blackwalli* Meade. Edington, 11 Sept., 1950, 27 Sept. and 3 Oct., 1953; Quantocks, 1,050 ft., Crowcombe, 26 Sept., 1953.

- Nelima silvatica* (Simon). Triscombe Stone, Over Stowey, 1,050 ft., under sheet of corrugated iron over dead leaves in beech avenue, 26 Sept., 1953. Very rare.
- **Odiellus palpinalis* (Herbst.). Rams Combe, Over Stowey, 1,050 ft., among dead leaves of beech avenue, 26 Sept., 1953.
- **Opilio saxatilis* (C. L. Koch). Edington, at margins of ditch and under stones in hedge banks and garden, 27 Sept., 3 and 6 Oct., 1953.
- **Megabunnus diadema* (F.). Holford, on rotten tree trunk, 15 April, 1953; Bickenhall, 17 May, 1953; Horner Woods, Luccombe, on rock by stream, 24 May, 1953.
- ‡Not previously recorded from Steep Holm.

ARANEAE (Spiders).

Species marked with an asterisk are additions to those listed for Somerset in Bristowe (1939, *Comity of Spiders* 1), and include five from Steep Holm in Hamilton, 1939, *Proc. Bristol Nat. Soc.* (4) 8: 468-470. Most of the identifications have kindly been made by Mr. J. H. Murgatroyd or by Mr. A. H. Turner, as indicated by their respective initials.

- **Dictyna puella* Simon. Bickenhall, fairly common, det. A. H. T. Local.
- ‡*Harpactea hombergi* (Scop.). Steep Holm, 26 April, 1953, det. J. H. M.
- **Clubiona neglecta* O.P.-Camb. Bickenhall, female with cocoon, 23 March, 1953, det. A. H. T. Widespread but not very common.
- **Phrurolithus festivus* (C. L. Koch). Steep Holm, 1938 (Hamilton, 1939); Edington, 23 June, 1953, det. Dr. A. F. Millidge.
- **Misumena vatia* (Clerck). Bickenhall, common, det. A. H. T.; Shapwick Heath, among flowers of *Lysimachia vulgaris* L. with the bee *Macropis labiata* (F.) as prey, 22 July, 1952.
- *‡*Xysticus kochi* Thor. Steep Holm, 25 May, 1953, det. J. H. M.
- **X. ulmi* (Hahn). West Town, Brockley, 29 May, 1950, det. J. H. M.; Berrow sand dunes, prey of the wasp *Pompilus unguicularis* Thoms., 24 July, 1950, det. J. H. M.; Shapwick Heath, 4 Aug., 1953, det. A. H. T. Widespread but rather rare.
- **X. bifasciatus* C. L. Koch. Bickenhall, fairly common, det. A. H. T. Widely distributed but rare.
- **X. luctuosus* (Blackwall). Britty Common, Staple Fitzpaine, 17 June, 1951, det. J. H. M. Rather rare.

- **Philodromus aureolus* var. *caespiticollis* Walck. Bickenhall, 31 May, 1953, det. A. H. T.
- **P. margaritatus* (Clerck). Bickenhall, 16 May, 1953, det. J. H. M. Very rare.
- **Salticus cingulatus* (Panz.). Bickenhall, 17 May, 1953, det. A. H. T.
- **Marpissa pomatia* (Walck.). Shapwick Heath, 25 Aug., 1950 (det. Dr. A. F. Millidge), 4 Aug., 1953 (det. A. H. T.); previously only known from three localities in the British Isles (Lancashire, Dorset, and Wicken Fen), but discovered in a Norfolk fen in 1953.
- **Neon reticulatus* (Blackwall). Steep Holm, 1938 (Hamilton, 1939).
- **Evarcha arcuata* (Clerck). West Town, Brockley, 29 May, 1950; Bin Combe, Over Stowey, 1 Sept., 1950, det. J. H. M.
- **Lycosa tarsalis* Thor. Steep Holm, 1938 (Hamilton, 1939).
- **Arctosa leopardus* (Sund.). Shapwick Heath, running on wet cattle-trampled peat, 11 May, 1953, det. J. H. M. Widespread but not common.
- ‡Not previously recorded from Steep Holm.
- **Dolomedes fimbriatus* (Clerck). The raft spider, very local, one of the largest British species. Not infrequent on the Turf Moor (Cattcott, Shapwick, and Street Heaths, 1949-53, det. J. H. M.).
- **Argyroneta aquatica* (Clerck). The water spider. Cattcott, in rhine with *Hottonia palustris* L. the dominant plant, March, 1948; Priddy Pool, 11 June, 1953, det. J. H. M.
- ‡*Agelena labyrinthica* (Clerck). Steep Holm, 26 April and 25 May, 1953, det. J. H. M.
- **Ero cambridgei* Kulcz. Axbridge, a female amongst long grass, 7 July, 1950 (A. M. Wild, 1952, *Trans. Cardiff Nat. Soc.* 80: 8-11).
- **Episinus truncatus* Latr. Steep Holm, 1938 (Hamilton, 1939).
- **Theridion lunatum* (Clerck). Bickenhall, 1950, det. A. H. T. Rather uncommon.
- **Araneus marmoreus* var. *pyramidatus* Clerck. Bickenhall (occasionally), Curland, Broadway, Buckland St. Mary, and Shapwick, det. A. H. T. Uncommon but widespread.
- ‡*A. cornutus* Clerck. Steep Holm, 26 April, 1953, det. J. H. M.
- **A. redii* (Scop.). Shapwick Heath, 4 Aug., 1953, det. A. H. T. Local.
- **A. sturmi* (Hahn). Horner Woods, Luccombe, 24 May, 1953, det. J. H. M. Local.

**Cyclosa conica* (Pallas). Dunster, beaten out of oak tree, 21 May, 1953, det. A. H. T.

**Lepthyphantes flavipes* (Blackwall). Steep Holm, 1938 (Hamilton, 1939).

J. COWLEY,
Recorder.