

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Somersetshire
Archaeological & Natural History
Society

FOR THE YEAR 1925

(ANNUAL MEETING, LANGPORT)

VOL. LXXI



Caunton:

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY

BY

BARNICOTT AND PEARCE, THE WESSEX PRESS

MCMXXVI

The Entomological Section

President—The Rev. Preb. A. P. WICKHAM, F.E.S., East Brent Vic., Highbridge.

Treasurer—Mr. H. DOIDGE, The Bank, High Street, Taunton.

Secretary and Recorder—Mr. H. H. SLATER, Brooke House, Cannington.

THE Annual Meeting was held at Taunton Castle on Friday, February 20th, 1925. The Treasurer's account showed a balance from the previous year of £3 11s. 0d. All the officers were re-elected.

Towards the decrease in membership through deaths, migration, etc., it was decided to circularise the schools and the press in the county, in the hope of stimulating the study of nature. This was done, but the effect was not great. We are, however, much indebted to the editors of newspapers, who gave us their kind and ready help.

If our present members would keep an eye open for likely candidates, and bring them in—in their own neighbourhood or otherwise—the results would, in all probability, be much better.

The Hon. Secretary desires to say that, when taking over Col. Jermyn's uncompleted job of re-arranging the diptera collection, he kept a number of named duplicate species, especially Syrphids, in preference to throwing them away. He will be glad to give them to any junior member of the Section who is seriously taking up the study of the diptera, and who would probably find them of considerable assistance.

THE APTERYGOTA OF SOMERSET.

By H. Womersley.

Order—THYSANURA (Bristle-tails).

Praemachilis hybernica, Carp. Occurs plentifully at Leigh Woods, Bristol; also at Cadbury Camp, Tickenham, and further at Tyntesfield, 6.VII.24; Brockley Combe, 12.VII.24.

Petrobius carpentari, Bagn. Occurs plentifully under the arches on the Somerset side of the Avon Gorge at Bristol; also on the rocks all along our coast from Portishead to Minehead.

Lepisma saccharina, Linn. I have records of this somewhat destructive insect from various parts of Somerset.

Campodea sp. ? I have taken specimens at Shapwick and elsewhere, but owing to damage critical identification has not been possible.

Order—COLLEMBOLA (Spring-tails).

Podura aquatica, (Linn.) Nic. Occurs probably everywhere on ponds.

Hypogastrura armata, Nic. Leigh Woods, 18.XI.23; West Town, 11.IV.25; Chelvey, 12.IV.25.

H. strenua, Brown. Avon Gorge, 17.XI.22, most probably; Kewstoke, on face of cliffs, 21.X.23.

Hypogastrura armata v. *trispina*, Axels. Leigh Woods, 18.XI.23.

Xenylla grisea, Axels. Kewstoke Woods, 25.VIII.22; Cadbury Camp, Tickenham, 6.IV.25; Minehead, 24.V.25; West Town, 22.II.25.

Pseudachorutes asigillatus, Börn. Leigh Woods, 30.III.25.

Pseudachorutes subcrassus, Tillbg. Leigh Woods, 21.XI.23; West Town, 10.IV.25; 25.IV.25.

Friesia mirabilis, Tillbg. In moss, Charterhouse-on-Mendip, 19.IV.25.

Friesia claviseta, Axels. West Town, 22.II.25; Goblin Combe, 15.III.25.

Anurida maritima, Guer. All along Somerset coast between tide marks.

Anurida granaria, Nic. Under stones, Banwell Caves, 3.II.24.

Achoreutes muscorum, Templ. Flax Bourton, 24.II.23; Westons.-Mare, 25.III.23.

Onychiurus armatus, Tillbg. Banwell Caves, 3.II.24; Cleeve, 25.I.25; Seven Wells Combe, Quantocks, 6.IX.25.

Onychiurus fimetarius, Linn. Banwell Caves, 3.II.24; Cleeve, 25.I.25; Seven Wells Combe, Quantocks, 6.IX.25.

Onychiurus burmeisteri, Lubbk. Cleeve, 25.I.25; Cannington, 6.IX.25.

- Tullbergia Krausbaueri*, Börn. Under stones, Backwell, 10.v.25.
Tullbergia quadrispina, Börn. Backwell, 10.v.25; West Town, 26.vii.25.
- Protanurophorus pearmani*, Womersley. Two specimens of this recently described species (E.M.M., Nov. 1925) from lichen on fallen branch, woods, West Town, Bristol, Som., 2.i.26.
- Anurophorus laricis*, Tullb. On lichen on gorse, Backwell Hill, 19.iv.25.
- Isotoma viridis*, Bourl. Everywhere.
- Isotoma olivacea* v. *griscescens*, Schff. In Talpa nests, Chelvey, 12.iv.25; Brockley Woods, 18.vii.25.
- Isotoma maritima*, Tullb. Amongst debris on shore, Portishead, Sept. 1924.
- Isotoma notabilis*, Schaff. Cadbury Camp, Tickenham, 6.iv.25; Kewstoke, 13.iv.25; Charterhouse-on-Mendip, 19.iv.24; West Town, 22.ii.25; Goblin Combe, 15.iii.25.
- Isotoma minor*, Schaff. Goblin Combe, 15.iii.25.
- Isotoma arborea*, Agr. Common everywhere.
- Isotoma sensibilis*, Tullb. Leigh Woods, 18.xi.23.
- Isotoma cinerea*, Nic. Kewstoke, 25.iii.23; Clevee, 25.i.25.
- Proisotoma minuta*, Tullb. In Talpa nests, Chelvey, April, 1925.
- Archisotoma besselsi*, Pack. Between tide marks, Weston-s.-Mare, 25.iii.23; Sand Point, 5.vii.24.
- Folsomia fimetaria*, Linn. Shapwick, 26.viii.23; Weston-s.-Mare, 20.i.22; Avon Gorge, 22.ix.23; Kewstoke, 13.iv.24; West Town, 22.ii.25; Brockley, 28.ii.25; Seven Wells Combe, Quantocks, 6.ix.25.
- Folsomia fimetaria* v. *caldaria*, Axels. Weston Woods, 20.i.22.
- Folsomia quadrioculata*, Tullb. Leigh Woods, 14.i.23; Cadbury Camp, Tickenham, 5.iv.24; Backwell, 11.i.25; West Town, 22.ii.25.
- Isotomurus palustris*, Miall. Everywhere. Var. *aquatilis*, Shapwick, 1921.
- Tomocerus minor*, Lubbk. Everywhere.
- Tomocerus longicornis*, Lubbk. Banwell, 3.ii.24.
- Entomobrya nivalis*, L. Everywhere.
- Entomobrya multifasciata*, Tullbg. Everywhere.

- Entomobrya muscorum*, Tullbg. Everywhere.
- Entomobrya albocincta*, Templ. Everywhere.
- Sinella cavernarum*, Doneiz. Banwell Caves, 3.II.24; Seven Wells Combe, Quantocks (under bricks), 6.IX.25.
- Lepidocyrtus cyaneus*, Tullb. Everywhere.
- Lepidocyrtus lanuginosus*, Gomel. Everywhere.
- Lepidocyrtus curvicollis*, Bourl. Leigh Woods, 18.XI.23; Banwell, 3.2.24; Generally distributed.
- Lepidocyrtus albus*, Pack. Under bark, Backwell, 14.III.25.
- Sira nigromaculata*, Lubbk. West Town, 28.VI.25, and since.
- Pseudosira domestica*, Nic. Cannington, 5.IX.25, in greenhouse.
- Orchesella cincta*, Linn. Everywhere.
- Orchesella cincta* v. *vaga*. Everywhere.
- Orchesella villosa*, Geoff. Everywhere.
- Orchesella flavescens*, Bourl. Bourton Combe, 4.VII.25; Brockley, 19.VII.25.
- Orchesella flavescens* v. *pallida*, Reut. Bourton Combe, 1921, and since; Goblin Combe, 15.III.25; Brockley, 19.VII.25.
- Heteromurus nitidus*, Templ. Everywhere.
- Cyphodeirus albinus*, Nic. Everywhere in ants' nests.
- Megalothorax minimus*, Willem. In moss, Goblin Combe, 15.III.25; Kewstoke Woods, 13.IV.24.
- Sminthurides malmgreni* v. *elegantula*, Reut. Banwell, 3.II.24.
- Sminthurinus aureus* v. *ochropus*, Reut. West Town, 13.IV.25.
- Sminthurinus igniceps*, Reut. Mr. Slater's greenhouse, Cannington, 5.IX.25.
- Sminthurinus niger*, Lubbk. In hothouse, Cleeve, 25.I.25; Mr. Slater's greenhouse, Cannington, 5.IX.25.
- Arrhopalites cecus* v. *attenuatus*, Carp. Backwell Quarry, 10.V.25.
- Bourletiella bicincta*, Kock. Bourton Combe, 17.V.24; Brockley, 19.VII.25.
- Bourletiella bicincta* v. *repanda*, Agr. Bourton Combe, 17.V.24; Brockley, 19.VII.25.
- Bourletiella insignis*, Reut. Shapwick, 11.VII.25.
- Sminthurus viridis*, Linn. Everywhere in grass.
- Allacma fusca*, Linn. Brockley Woods, 19.VII.25.
- Dicyrtoma fusca*, Lubbk. Everywhere.

Dicyrtomina minuta, Lubbk. Cannington, 6.IX.25. Common.
Dicyrtomina minuta v. *ornata*, Nic. Everywhere.

LEPIDOPTERA.

Choerocampa celerio, L. A specimen was taken on the Mendips, as recorded in *The Field* for Aug. 20th, 1925, and brought to Mr. D. B. Grubb, of Wintrath, Winscombe, on Aug. 9th. Apparently the ninth example recorded from the county. I have not seen it.

Sesia formiciformis, Esp. I swept a specimen of this Clearwing from rough herbage, near to where a number of willows had been cut down, at Shapwick, 11.VII.25. There are only two previous records in the county, both near Bristol many years ago.

Mr. Hayward sends me the following occurrences of *Microlepidoptera*, which, with two specified exceptions, are new Somerset records.

Tortrices.

Peronea comariana, Zell. (Northern form). Turf Moor, H. C. Hayward, Aug. 1919. (Identified by Pierce).

Sericoris rivulana, Scop. Haselbury Park, Crewkerne, A. R. Hayward. Fairly abundant.

Capua favillaceana, Hb. Bathford, *Entom. Record*, July, 1918.

Clepsis rusticana, Tr. Turf Moor, A.R.H., 24.IV.21. (Identified by Rev. J. W. Metcalfe).

Phoxopteryx diminutana, Haw. H. Doidge, Taunton Dist., n.d. (Identified by J.W.M.).

Coccyx splendidulana, Gn. Haselbury Park, April, 1920, A.R.H. Pretty common.

Lipoptycha (*Dicrorhampha*) *saturnana*, Gn. Near Midford, *Ent. Rec.*, July, 1918. This insect was recorded by Mr. Hayward for 1923. The insect, however, on further examination by Mr. Metcalfe, proved to be only *L. plumbana*. He desires to withdraw the record, and the above takes its place.

Catoptria fulvana, St. Creech Hill, Bruton, A.R.H., 9.VII.20. (Confirmed, J.W.M.).

Tineae.

- Diplodoma marginepunctella*, St. Misterton, 22.vi.25, A.R.H.
(Confirmed, J.W.M.).
- Depressaria albipunctella*, Hb. Misterton, 12.i.25, A.R.H.
(Confirmed, J.W.M.).
- Gelechia solutella*, Zell. Ashcott, 12.viii.24, A.R.H. (Identified by J. H. Durrant).
- Bryotropha desertella*, Doug. H. Doidge, Taunton Dist., n.d.
(Mr. Metcalfe is not absolutely certain as to this).
- Anacamptis vorticella*, Scop. Bathampton, *Ent. Rec.*, Sept. 1917.
- Sophronia parenthesella*, L. H. Doidge, Taunton Dist., n.d.
(Confirmed, J.W.M.).
- Oecophora tinctella*, Hb. Haselbury Park, A.R.H., 29.v.21.
Moderately common.
- Butalis senescens*, Sta. Bathford, *Ent. Rec.*, Sept. 1917.
- Blastotera glabratella*. Bathford, *Ent. Rec.*, Jan. 1919. This insect is not in South's list, but is a recent introduction into Britain, probably with foreign conifers. The genus is near to *Argyresthia*.
- Coleophora frischella*, L. H. Doidge, Taunton Dist., n.d.
- Batrachedra pinicolella*, Dup. Bathford, A. Sich, *Ent. Rec.*, vol. XXIX, p. 169.
- Chauliodus insecurellus*, Sta. Misterton, A.R.H., 7.vii.21.
(Identified by J. H. Durrant).
- C. illigerellus*, Hb. Misterton, A.R.H., 15.viii.20. (Identified by J.W.M.).
- Laverna ochraceella*, Curt. Misterton Dist., 10.vii.23. (Confirmed, J.W.M.). Mr. Hayward requests that this should take the place of *Myrmecocela ochraceella*, Tgst., recorded in error, *Proc. Som. Arch. & Nat. Hist. Soc.* for 1923.
- L. hellerella*, Dup. Bath, A. Sich, *Ent. Rec.*, July, 1917.
- Elachista triatomea*, Haw. Bathford, *Ent. Rec.*, July, 1917.
- Tischeria dodonaea*, Heyd. Misterton, A.R.H., 3.vi.22. (Identified by J.W.M.).
- Nepticula fletcheri*, Tutt. Bathford, A. Sich, *Ent. Rec.*, May, 1920. Presumably a recent addition to the British list. Not in South's list, or Meyrick's Handbook.

- N. plagicolella*, Sta. Combe Down, *Ent. Rec.*, Sept. 1917.
N. aeneofasciella, H.S. Bathampton, *Ent. Rec.*, Sept. 1917.
Fumea casta, Pall. Cases near Midford, *Ent. Rec.*, Nov. 1917.

This species is not in South nor Meyrick. See remarks in *Ent. Record*, April, 1917, by the Rev. C. R. N. Burrows, F.E.S., who, concerning this species, suggests that we have several species under this name, and that the whole group requires a complete overhauling.

- Anesychia decemguttella*, Hb. Mr. Hayward mentions that this insect is stated to have occurred in Somerset in Meyrick's "Handbook of British Lepidoptera," and ought therefore to be recorded here.

HYMENOPTERA.

Mr. Alfred H. Martineau, our new recorder for these, sends me the following records for this year.

Fossores.

- Myrmosa melanocephala*, Fab. Crewkerne, A.H.M., 9.VIII.24.
Pompilus (Psammochares) viaticus, L. Crewkerne, A.H.M., 21.V.23.
Hoplocrabro quadrimaculatus, Fab. Crewkerne, A.H.M., n.d.

Apidæ.

- Andrena praecox*, Scop. Crewkerne, A.H.M., 12.IV.25.
A. fuscipes, Kirb. Shapwick, A.H.M., 23.VIII.24.
A. similis, Sm. Crewkerne, A.H.M., 13.V.25.
Nomada ochrostoma (Hillana), Kirb. Crewkerne, A.H.M., 5.VI.25.
N. ruficornis (flava), L. Crewkerne, A.H.M., n.d.
N. furva, Panz. Crewkerne, A.H.M., 2.VI.25.
Chelostoma florissomne, L. Crewkerne, A.H.M., n.d.

COLEOPTERA.

- Acanthocinus aedilis*, L. A male, captured at Stratton-on-the-Fosse, was sent to me by the Rev. Dom. Ethelbert Horne, Downside Abbey. It is the second occurrence of the insect

in Somerset (the previous one by Canon Fowler, "Bath"). Probably imported in a pit prop to the adjacent collieries. A striking and handsome insect, feeding in pine and fir timber.

ICHNEUMONIDAE.

Ichneumoninae.

- Coelichneumon leucocerus*, Gr. Withycombe, W. Somerset, 1910.
- C. consimilis*, Wesm. Shepton Mallet (H.J.C.).
- C. lineator*, Fab. Stawell, Bridgwater, 1911.
- Cratichneumon fabricator*, Fab. Shepton Mallet (H.J.C.).
- C. gravenhorsti*, Fnsch. ♀ (ex dug pupa). Stawell, 12.v.12.
- C. lanius*, Gr. ♂ W. Buckland Wood, Wellington, 4.v.21.
- Melanichneumon leucomelas*, Gm. Garden, Cannington, 5.x.20.
- M. saturatorius*, L. Shepton Mallet (H.J.C.).
- Barichneumon vestigator*, Wesm. Cannington, 13.v.22.
- Ichneumon xanthorius*, Fst. Sedgmoor, 30.vi.21.
- I. sarcitorius*, L. ♂ Shapwick, 15.vii.22.
- I. gracilentus*, Wesm. Priddy Ponds, Mendip, 15.ix.24.
- I. confusorius*, Gr. Stawell, 1911.
- I. quadrialbatus*, Gr. ♂ ♂ ♀ (ex *N. typhæ* pupæ). Shapwick, 9.10 and 13.viii.13.
- Amblyteles palliatorius*, Gr. Holford, Quantocks, 27.vii.22.
- A. armatorius*, Fst. Crook's Peak, Mendip, 25.vi.14 (S.O.R.), and Cannington, Holford, and Creech Hill (Bruton), etc., by H. S. Since.
- A. oratorius*, Fab. Holford, 27.vii.22.
- Platylabus orbitalis*, Gr. (Ex pupæ of *M. virgata*, several). Burnham, 1912.
- P. pactor*, Wesm. (Ex *Eupith. valerianata*). Shapwick, 28.vi.12.
- Herpestomus brunneicornis*, Gr. Crook's Peak, 4.v.14 (S.O.R.).
- Phaeogenes bellicornis*, Wesm. ♂ Shapwick, 15.vii.22.
- Alomyia debellator*, Fab. Cannington Brook, 10.v.20; also ex dug Lep. pupæ Cannington, 3.vi.20; also Shepton Mallet (H.J.C., no date).

Cryptinæ.

- Cratocryptus parvulus*, Gr. Frome, 2.vii.14 (S.O.R.).
Cubocephalus oviventris, Gr. Cannington, 8.viii.25.
Microcryptus graminicola, Gr. ♂♂ Winscombe, 2.ix.21 ;
 Holford, 25.vii.25.
M. abominator, Gr. ♂ Bridgwater Canal, 9.viii.20.
Glyphicnemis profligator, Fab. Shepton Mallet (H.J.C., n.d.).
G. vagabunda, Gr. ♂♀ Creech Hill, Bruton, 9.vii.20.
G. brevis, Gr. Cheddar, 19.viii.11 (A.E.H.).
Phygadeuon rugulosus, Gr. ♂ Holford, 27.vii.22.
Ph. variabilis, Gr. Shepton Mallet (H.J.C.).
Ph. dimidiatus, Thms. ♀ Quantocks, 27.vii.22.
Panargyrops tenuipes, Gr. ♀ Cannington, 11.vii.22.
Hemiteles tristator, Gr. Cannington, 25.ix.22.
H. æstivalis, Gr. Quantocks, 27.vii.22.
Mesostenus obnoxius, Gr. Withycombe, 12.vi.10.
Cryptus tarsoleucus, Schr. (coll. Churchill) Shepton Mallet.
C. obscurus, Gr. Stawell, 1911 ; Shapwick, 29.v.12, etc.
C. viduatorius, Fab. Creech Hill, 9.vii.20.
C. albatorius, Vill. ♂ Holford, 25.vii.25.

Pimplinæ.

- Pimpla pomorum*, Rtz. ♀♀ Leigh Woods (A.E.H., n.d.).
P. instigator, Fab. Stawell, 1.ix.12.
P. turionellæ, L. Shapwick (H.S.), 29.v.12 ; Crook's Peak
 (S.O.R.), v. 14 ; Holford (H.S.), 25.vii.25. .
P. maculator, Fab. Cannington, 7.vii.16.
P. alternans, Gr. Shepton Mallet (H.J.C.).
Glypta elongata, Hlgr. ♀♀ Batcombe, Bruton, 11.vi.25.
G. ceratites, Gr. ♀ Shapwick, 11.vi.25.
G. lugubrina, Hlgr. Creech Hill, 9.vii.20.
Lissonota bellator, Gr. Crook's Peak, 26.iv.14 (S.O.R.).
L. variipes, Desv. ♀ Stawell, 7.vi.13.
L. cylindrator, Vill. Shepton Mallet (H.J.C.).
L. sulphurifera, Gr. Catcott Heath, 9.ix.22.
Alloplasta murina, Gr. (ex noctuid larva). Stawell, 3.v.12.
Exetastes cinctipes, Retz. Shepton Mallet (H.J.C.).

- E. nigripes*, Gr. Shepton Mallet (H.J.C.).
E. guttatus, Gr. Shepton Mallet (H.J.C.).

Tryphoninae.

- Metopius dentatus*, Fab. (ex *Cucullia chamomillae* pupa), Cannington, 12.v.20.
Bassus tricinctus, Gr. (ex pupa of *Platychirus albimanus*), Shepton Mallet (H.J.C.).
Homocidus fissorius, Gr. Shepton Mallet (H.J.C.).
H. dimidiatus, Schr. Cheddar, 19.viii.11 (A.E.H.).
H. xanthaspis, Thms. Cannington, 23.vi.25.
H. signatus, Gr. Batcombe, 16.v.25 (♂).
Promethus sulcator, Gr. Crook's Peak, 8.vi.14 (S.O.R.).
Protarchus rufus, Gr. ♂ Cannington, 16.vi.20.
Tryphon elongator, Fab. Shepton Mallet (H.J.C.).
T. ephippium, Hlgr. Shepton Mallet (H.J.C.).
T. rutilator, L. Creech Hill, 9.vii.20.
Exyston brevipetiolatum, Th. Cheddar, 19.viii.11 (A.E.H.).
Mesoleptus typhae, Frc. ♂ Winscombe, 2.ix.21.
M. testaceus, Fab. Bridgwater Canal, 19.viii.20.
Perilissus filicornis, Gr. Shapwick, 15.vii.22.
Prionopoda stictica, Fab. ♂♂ (ex noctuid larvæ), Stawell, 21 and 22.vi.12.
Lathrolestes unguularis, Thms. Leigh Woods, "Oct." (A.E.H.).
Thersilochus saltator, Fab. ♂ Shapwick, 11.vii.25.
Campoplex falcator, Fab. Stawell, July, 1911.
C. myrtillus, Desv. Shapwick, 22.vii.11.
Canidiella trochantella, Th. ♀, 11.v.23.
Nemeritis rufipes, Bdg. Crook's Peak, 1.v.14 (S.O.R.).
Phobocampa crassiuscula, G. Ex pupa of *Halias prasinana*, Stawell, 1911.
Meloboris rufiventris, Gr. ♂ Shapwick, 11.vii.25.
Angitia fenestralis, Hlgr. ♀ Cannington, 23.vii.21.
Anilasta ruficincta, Gr. Flax Bourton, "ix" (A.E.H.).
Ophion luteus, L. Stawell, 5.vii.12.
O. scutellaris, Th. ♂♂♂♀ Crook's Peak, 1914 (S.O.R.).
Labrorynchus tenuicornis, Gr. Shepton Mallet (H.J.C.).
Paniscus melanurus, Th. Crook's Peak, 26.vi.14 (S.O.R.).

In the above list the initials in brackets represent—

(H.J.C.) Mr. H. J. Charbonnier, our old helper.

(A.E.H.) Mr. Alfred E. Hudd (the late), to whom we owe so much.

(S.O.R.) The Rev. S. O. Ridley, formerly Vicar of Compton Bishop.

Where no initials are found, the record is my own. The list would have been considerably longer had my lepidopterist friends kept for me the Ichneumons they have bred, or otherwise met with ; as I have often appealed to them to do.

Mr. Morley has kindly named these for me.

TRICHOPTERA.

Six new species for 1925, viz. :—

Beraea pullata, Curt. Batcombe, Bruton, 16.VI.25 (H.S.).

Leptocerus cinereus, Curt. Combwich Brook, 23.VI and 2.VII.25 (H.S.).

Hydropsyche fulvipes, Curt. Holford, 25.VII.25 (H.S.).

Polycentropus flavomaculatus, Pict. Cannington Brook, 25.VIII.25 (H.S.).

Lype reducta, Hagen. Holford, 25.VII.25 (H.S.).

Rhyacophila obliterated, McLach. Seven Wells Combe, Quantocks, 5.IX.25 (H.S.).

I am indebted to Mr. Moseley for kindly identifying the above.

HENRY SLATER.

The Ornithological Section

President and Chief Recorder—The Rev. F. L. BLATHWAYT, M.B.O.U.,
Melbury Osmund Rectory, Dorchester, Dorset.

Vice-Presidents—Lt.-Colonel J. W. GIFFORD and Mr. E. W. HENDY.

Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, Taunton Castle, Taunton.

THE 1925 Annual Meeting of the Section was held at the Somerset County Museum on April 14th, when the Rev. F. L. Blathwayt occupied the chair; there was a good attendance.

The Treasurer presented the financial statement for 1924, which showed a balance in hand on December 31st, 1924, of £15 14s. 4d. There was also on deposit at the bank the sum of £27 11s. 6d. set aside as the Somerset Egg Cabinet Fund.

The President, the Recorders, and the Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected. Of the Vice-Presidents, Colonel Gifford and Colonel Lascelles, the latter wished to retire, and Mr. E. W. Hendy was elected to fill his place. Colonel Gifford was re-elected. Seven new candidates for membership were then elected, which brought the Section up to seventy-nine members.

The Eleventh Report on Somerset Birds (1924), edited by the President, was sent out to the members in the first week of April. Owing to the gradual increase of the Section and therefore of its funds, it had been found possible to *print* this report, adopting the same size of page as the *Proceedings* of the Society. It is limited to 150 copies, and may be purchased for the sum of 2s. 6d. by those not belonging to the Section. This part includes a Map of Somerset showing the ornithological districts, nos. I to VII. In the Twelfth Report a list of members will be printed, and the district to which they belong will be indicated. This report will also include a list of ornithological books in the Society's Library.

Books have been purchased during the year both from the Wigglesworth Fund and the general fund of the Section.

It is hoped that a typewritten Index to the Reports, nos. II to X inclusive, compiled by Miss Selman, will be issued well before the 1926 Annual Meeting; price 2s.

It was decided to refer to the Wild Birds Protection Committee of the Somerset County Council a suggestion, approved by the Section, that the Council should prepare a simpler list of birds and their eggs protected by law for exhibition as a poster in the elementary schools of the county.

The President's suggestion that special observations should be made, during 1925, of twenty-six selected species of birds was well received, and particulars will be found on page 3 of Report XI. It is hoped to extend the scheme in the future.

The autumn meeting was held at Taunton Castle on September 1st, and to that meeting some of the above observations refer.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

The Botanical Section

President—Dr. W. WATSON, A.L.S.

Committee—Dr. H. DOWNES, F.L.S., Mr. N. G. HADDEN, Miss I. M. ROPER, F.L.S., and Mr. H. S. THOMPSON.

Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. W. D. MILLER, Audrey, Burnham-on-Sea.

THE annual general meeting was held at the Museum, Taunton Castle, on December 17th, 1924, when the usual business was transacted, and the accounts passed, shewing a balance in hand of £10 0s. 3d. The Secretary read a letter from Mr. J. W. White, F.L.S., resigning the presidency of the Section. A cordial vote of thanks to the outgoing President was passed, and Dr. Watson was unanimously elected President. Mr. Miller proposed that when two or more members of one household were members of the Section, the subscription of all members above one should be 2s. 6d. This was seconded by Dr. Downes and carried.

On June 4th a party of eighteen members and friends visited the neighbourhood of Wiveliscombe and Milverton. Two hours were spent on an examination of the marsh flora of Clean Moor. Sedges were abundant and a large number of marsh plants were identified. The district had been well worked by the Rev. E. S. Marshall in 1910–11, so that no new records could be expected. A short visit was then made to Langford Heath, where *Viola lactea* was in beautiful bloom. The main party returned to Milverton, where they were most hospitably entertained to tea by Mrs. Kinnear.

On June 19th a dozen members and friends visited the peat moor at Shapwick Station. Eight species of orchids were noticed including several plants of *Habenaria bifolia*, which of late years has become scarce on this part of the peat moor. Thirteen sedges were counted, including *C. teretiuscula*. The

large patch of *C. lasiocarpa* within 200yds. of the railway station appears to have escaped previous record. Among other plants noted were *Apium inundatum*, *Cladium mariscus*, *Schoenus nigricans* in unusual abundance, and in two or three places plenty of the very attractive *Utricularia minor*, whilst *U. vulgaris* was in amazing abundance everywhere. *Lemna minor* and *L. trisulca* were observed in flower. In spite of records *Eleocharis multicaulis* appears to be much less common on this part of the moor than *Scirpus pauciflorus*. Evidence of the rapid growth of one of the rarest water plants (*Sparganium minimum*) on the peat moor was noticed in August on Ashcott Heath. Mr. Thompson observed that a peat cutting, which a few years before had no sign of the plant, is now largely choked with this species.

On June 27th a small party travelled to Weston-super-Mare and spent an hour on a small patch of muddy sand practically surrounded by houses, which still carries a remarkable flora, including *Equisetum hyemale*, *E. variegatum*, *E. palustre*, *Carex arenaria*, *C. panicea*, *C. flacca*, *C. hirta*, *C. goodenowii*, *Blysmus compressus*, *Scirpus setaceus*, *Eleocharis palustris*, and *Epipactis palustris*. It may be worth noting that *Equisetum variegatum* is primarily a northern species. It has been recorded from South Devon, but does not appear to have been seen there for many years. It still survives on the sandhills at Brean, but in pitiable plight. The vigorous patch at Weston may therefore be looked upon as the rearguard in its retreat north, the nearest units of the main body being in Carnarvon, Denbigh and Norfolk. The party then travelled by road to Cheddar and spent the afternoon in the Gorge. The flora is too well known to need particular comment. *Meconopsis cambrica* appears to be chiefly confined to one small scree slope, and as the plants are remarkably accessible and very attractive when in bloom, it is possible that the species will not long survive there. Fortunately it is far from uncommon in the west of the county. On the other hand the pink, in full bloom, was occupying many ledges, and in two places was flowering in the grass beside the road. The single plant of *Antennaria dioica* discovered by Mr. Hamlin in 1922, has now increased to five and is flourishing, and *Cardamine impatiens*, which had well

nigh disappeared, may now be seen in abundance at the entrance to Gough's Cave, where the alteration of a bank has evidently exposed to light and air some dormant seeds. It may not be generally known that several species of ferns are thriving inside the cave, where daylight cannot reach, but within a few inches of the electric bulbs.

On Saturday, July 18th, a field day was held at Somerton to explore the extensive woodlands occupying the high ground to the north. A typical calcicole flora was met with throughout, and among the plants noticed were *Cnicus eriophorus*, *Asperula cynanchica*, *Serratula tinctoria*, *Genista tinctoria* and *Campanula glomerata*. There had only been a shower or two of rain for six weeks and the vegetation was stunted and depauperate. A notable feature was the quantity of *Samolus valerandi* in some of the rides, and several small plants of *Anagallis foemina* were seen in the clearing in Copley Wood as recorded in Mr. Marshall's *Supplement*. In spite of prolonged search, no trace was found of *Althaea hirsuta*, which is undoubtedly extremely scarce. The very distinct hybrid *Galium mollugo* x *verum* was observed near the Butleigh Monument, and various species and forms of *Epilobium* occupied a good deal of attention. The party was most hospitably entertained to tea by Mr. and Mrs. E. Page at Ivythorn Manor. The thanks of the Section are due to Mr. R. Neville Grenville of Butleigh Court for permission to botanize on his lands.

Saving that the long drought in June and early July accelerated and curtailed the flowering period of many species, the season may be considered normal and conditions for field work have been good. Notes sent in have, however, been fewer than usual, and—as will be seen from the selection below—not of outstanding interest.

Ranunculus drouettii F. Schultz. (9) Pond, Brockley Combe.

Miss Roper.

Aquilegia vulgaris L. (3) Half a dozen plants by roadside, Marshfield, Over Stowey. *H. S. Thompson*.

Silene noctiflora L. (8) In some abundance in a stubble field near Hadspen House, Castle Cary. *J. A. Williams in lit.*
H. S. Thompson.

Stellaria holostea L. (3) Milverton. A curious form. The

- flowers were green and doubling had occurred. All the floral leaves were sepaloid and buds similar to flower buds occurred in the axils of some. Styles and stigmas were developed on some of the carpels. *W. Watson.*
- Claytonia perfoliata* Donn. (8) Garden, Burnham. *W. D. Miller.*
- Hypericum dubium* Leers. (*maculatum* Crantz) Claverton. *Major Orme.*
- Trifolium fragiferum* L. (10) Between Pensford and Publow. *Miss Roper.* Beside the Avon at Bathford. *W. D. Miller.*
- T. filiforme* L. (8) Catcot. *W. Watson.* This plant has not previously been recorded from anywhere in the centre of the County.
- Lathyrus aphaca* L. (9) Portishead. Casual. *Major Orme.*
- Epilobium lanceolatum* Seb. & Maur. (10) Cloud Hill, Temple Cloud. *H. Downes.* Within a mile of station recorded in Fl. Bristol. The plant has disappeared from Mr. Marshall's station in district 3.
- Bupleurum tenuissimum* L. Clevedon. *Major Orme.*
- Galium mollugo x verum* L. (5) Compton Dundon. *W. Watson.*
- Matricaria suaveolens* Buchenau. "This appears to have reached its zenith in many places. It does not make any headway, rather the reverse." *W. Watson.*
- Cnicus forsteri* Sm. (9) Boggy field, Churchill. *Miss Roper.*
- Anagallis foemina* Miller. (5) Fields between Langport and Somerton. *H. Downes.* Seems to affect county division 5.
- Silybum marianum* Gaertn. (4) Casual in cultivated ground, Merriott. *H. Downes.*
- Centaurea solstitialis* L. (10) Combe Hay. *Major Orme.*
- Solanum nigrum* L. (4) Abundant on sewage farm, Crewkerne. *H. Downes.* New for county division 4.
- Plantago lanceolata* L. (10) Stratton-on-the-Fosse. One plant of the rare form referred to by Mr. White in Fl. Bristol, 500. All the scapes four or five in number bore several heads furnished with leafy bracts. *H. Downes.*
- Chenopodium urbicum* L. (10) Twerton. *Major Orme.*
- Narcissus biflorus* Curt. (10) By the Chew above Stanton Drew. *Miss Roper.*
- Potamogeton densus* L. var. *angustifolius* Wallr. (9) Walton

- Moor, near Clevedon. An elegant form with narrow tapering leaves. One fruit had 6 carpels and two had 4, the normal number given in books being 2 to 3. *H. S. Thompson.*
- Rynchospora alba* Vahl. (10) Mineries bog, Mendip. *H. Downes.* This plant seems curiously rare in the north of the county.
- Carex strigosa* Huds. (5) Somerton Erleigh wood. *H. Downes.* New for county division 5. This species is either increasing or more frequently detected. It appears to have ousted *C. vulpina* at Cross keys, Norton, and General Frith reports a fine patch on the Kingston-Taunton road.
- C. lasiocarpa* Ehrh. (*filiformis* L.). (8) Close to Shapwick Station. *W. D. Miller.*
- C. rostrata* Stokes. (10) Emborough pond. Confirming Flower's old record, bracketed by Murray in Fl. Somerset. *H. Downes.*
- C. vesicaria* L. (5) Othery, about six miles from the original Muchelney station. *H. Downes.*
- Setaria glauca* Beauv. (8) Station yard, Glastonbury. Casual. *W. Watson.*
- Triodia decumbens* Beauv. (10) Stratton common. *H. Downes.*
- Poa annua* L. var. *reptans* Hausskn. (9) Tyntesfield, Wraxall. A perennial variety throwing out many creeping stolons. *Miss Roper.*
- Lepturus filiformis* Trin. (2) Minehead. *W. Watson.*

Mr. Thompson has noted 103 species of phanerogams and one fern growing on pollard trees beside the River Chew in division 10. He has also made large gatherings of *Carices* in the north of the county recorded in *Report Watson Exchange Club 1925*. The most arresting note is of a *vulpina* x *contigua* hybrid from near Whitchurch. This hybrid—though given a place in the tenth and eleventh editions of the London Catalogue—is apparently new to Somerset, if not to Britain. The group of sedges *vulpina*, *muricata* (ag.), *divulsa*, and *remota* is admittedly difficult, and forms previously unrecorded must frequently occur. In addition other Somerset plants are mentioned in the Report, as well as in the *Report of the Botanical Society of the British Isles*. Dr. Watson's "*Lichenological Notes*" in the *Journal of Botany* for May 1925 mention three

Somerset localities for rare lichens, and the Rev. J. Roffey's "The *Hieracia* of the London Catalogue" in the November issue of the same Journal contains references to Somerset Hawkweeds. *The Bryophytes and Lichens of Arctic-Alpine Vegetation* by Dr. Watson appears in the *Journal of Ecology*, Vol. XIII, no. 1, Jan. 1925.

Sharpham Moor Plot.—The total number of plants observed growing in this small enclosure of peat has been increased to about 140 kinds. By means of a new gate, some slight fencing and ditch cleaning, cattle are now prevented from entering the plot. However if it is to be adequately protected, further expense must shortly be incurred, and subscriptions to the upkeep fund may be sent to Mr. H. S. Thompson, Sec. and Treas., 33, Southleigh Road, Clifton, Bristol.

The eleventh edition of the London Catalogue was issued in June 1925. In spite of the eminence of the specialists who acted as the compilers, this edition has met with a good deal of criticism.

By the death at Barnstaple on November 30th, of Mr. W. P. Hiern, F.R.S., the Section has lost an honorary member and Devon a very distinguished botanist. Mr. Hiern published a number of botanical works and papers, of which the chief were "Dicotyledons" and a Catalogue of the African plants collected by Dr. F. Welwitsch, in 1853-61. Some of his botanical papers read before the Devon Association are monuments of erudition and careful preparation. It is greatly to be hoped that his unique knowledge of the flora of Devon may still be available at least in part. To botanists, particularly to those of a neighbouring county, the lack of a recent and complete Flora of Devon is continually a matter of regret.

Mr. R. E. Hope Simpson kindly invited members to tea on August 20th. Unfortunately the invitation reached the Secretary too late to be circulated.

There are now fifty-six members of the Section. Of these fifty have sent in no notes as to their observations in their immediate neighbourhood.