

## The Entomological Section

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

*Treasurer*—Mr. C. J. PERRENS, 6, Park Road, Bridgwater.

*Secretary*—Dr. J. V. BLACHFORD, C.B.E., Milverton Ho., Long Ashton, Bristol.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Entomological Section was held at Taunton Castle on 16 February 1934; in the absence of the President, owing to fog, the chair was taken by Mr. A. R. Hayward.

All the Officers were re-elected for the ensuing year.

The advisability of organising a scheme for registering the names of insects occurring in the County was discussed.

An Extraordinary Meeting was held at East Brent Vicarage on 20 March to discuss:

- (1) The publication of the list of insects captured on the Turf Moors and in the immediate neighbourhood by Messrs. Claude Morley, Blair and Doughty.
- (2) The organisation of a scheme for the registration of insects occurring in the County.

The meeting was well attended and Mrs. Wickham very kindly entertained the members to tea afterwards.

The spring field meeting was held on Shapwick Moor on 28 May when the weather was favourable. *Bombyliiformis* was fairly common and two specimens of the Birch Clearing (*culiciformis*) were captured.

During last season *Anosia erippus* (*plexippus*) was taken on three occasions at Minehead, Dunster and on Exmoor respectively.

Mr. C. J. Perrens took a specimen of *Leucania obsoleta* at Bridgwater in June. Mr. A. R. Hayward reports two fresh records for Somerset *Elachista subalbidella* on June 4 and *Argyresthia cornella* in mid-July. A specimen of the White Admiral (*Sibylla*) was taken in Loxley Woods, Polden Hills, on 14 July by Commander Wilson, R.N.

On 19 January 1935 the Secretary received the following letter from Mr. Hayward :

‘ I do not think I have taken very much of outstanding interest this last season within the limits of Somerset, but the following are new to the County list.

*Platyptilia isodactyla* Zell.

which I found in a withy bed in Crewkerne.

*Endothenia fuligana* Hb.

*Mompha raschkiella* Zell.

*Swammerdamia heroldella* Don.

which three I turned up on the Turf Moor in May and June.

A rarity in the Tortrices, *Lozophora beatricella* Wals. was taken by Mr. Charles Bartlett on Steephelm at the end of May 1933, and I found I had also taken it here, but had failed to identify it correctly, in July of the same year. It has only hitherto been found in Kent, Essex and one or two other Eastern counties. Mine has been confirmed by Metcalfe (joint author of the Genitalia of the Tortrices with Pierce) and I have seen Bartlett's specimen, about which there is no doubt whatever.

*Gelechia similis* Staint., named for me by Meyrick, I took first here in 1932.

I found two moths new to the county in a boxfull of C. J. Perrens' namely :

*Dichromeris marginella* Fab. He has a juniper shrub in his garden which is infested with it. I bred a series from there this last year, but the first one C. J. Perrens set is dated 1925, so the honour belongs to him. It can only be regarded as an introduced species, and not a native, until someone turns it up where juniper grows wild, which is only, I believe, somewhere near Bath.

*Borkhausenina flavifrontella* Hb.

Bridgwater, July 1925.

*Eucosma ratzburgiana* Ratz. was first recorded by G. B. Coney from Penselwood in 1929, but in C. J. P.'s box was a specimen labelled " Quantocks, July 1919 ", so again C. J. P. tops the list, and he captured *Leucania obsoleta* Hb. at Bridgwater in June last.

An interesting little Tortrix, not new to the county, is *Laspeyresia strobilella* L. which I found flying in swarms round some spruces between Norton Fitzwarren and Bishops Lydeard stations. It is very local and although there are plenty of spruce plantations near here I have never come across it before.



*Peronea cristana* Fab. was in fairly good numbers here last autumn. Out of the 73 named forms, about 31 or 32 occur here, and in September, G. B. Coney and I found two forms which had not appeared here before—*subnigrana* Image and *subcapucina* Desvs,—the latter a great surprise, Folkestone being its usual habitat.

A. R. HAYWARD.\*

Mr. St. George Gray has provided the following description of a Comma, *C'Album*, taken on 28 September 1934 at Orchard Wyndham by Miss A. Wyndham, of Orchard Wyndham, Somerset :

A pale Comma, rather small, upper surface of wings primrose yellow with slight green and reddish-brown shadings varying according to the light. Wings greener near the thorax ; wing-markings dark brown. Thorax deep, rich green.

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#### HENRY H. SLATER

The Entomological Section suffered a great loss last year in the death of its founder, Mr. Henry H. Slater, M.A., B.SC., who died on the 26 November 1934, aged 83.

Educated at Durham School, he obtained a scholarship at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, in 1870, taking the Natural Science Tripos in 1873 and his M.A. degree in 1887.

The deceased gentleman had a wide scientific knowledge of Natural History. He accompanied, as naturalist, the Scientific Expedition to Rodriguez in 1874 to view the Transit of Venus, and stayed for some time in Mauritius. He visited Iceland in 1885, 1894 and 1900 and published a book, *The Birds of Iceland* in 1901. He also published an article in the *Victoria County History* on the Birds of Northamptonshire.

Mr. Slater was a first-rate botanist, and a keen gardener. He took great interest in music, was a good shot, a keen fisherman, and rowed bow in his College Eight. He had a small but practically complete collection of British Macro-Lepidoptera.

Mr. Slater came to Somerset in 1906 and settled at Withycombe. He worked that part of the Brendon Hills and the coast from Watchet to Minehead, securing new records of Lepidoptera for the County. He then moved to Stawell and his work on the Turf Moor resulted in further additions to the County list. After a few years

he took a house at Cannington, but was disappointed at the results he obtained there. Nevertheless he remained at Cannington for fourteen years before moving to Mark for a short period and then to Stroud for two years. He finally returned to Somerset in 1932 and settled at Bishops Lydeard where he and his wife both died (she on 28 October 1934).

His outstanding achievement in the County was the organization of the Entomological Section under the aegis of the Archæological and Natural History Society. The Section was inaugurated at a meeting held at Taunton Castle on 28 October 1909, and the first Field meeting was held on the Turf Moor, 16 May 1910. At the Taunton meeting Mr. Slater was appointed Honorary Secretary, a post he filled with conspicuous ability for twenty years.

His aim was to find workers to cover every branch of Entomology and, by getting them to record their captures, to acquire and place on record a knowledge of the range and distribution of the insect life of the County. Unable to find anyone to take up the *Odonata* (Dragonflies) and *Pulicidae* (Fleas) he worked up County lists of these two genera himself.

Mr. Slater had a very extensive knowledge of Entomology, and after the death of Mr. A. E. Hudd acted as Recorder for the Section. He was always delighted to give a helping hand to any entomologist, and many members of the Section have good reason to be very grateful to him. Both he and Mrs. Slater were very hospitable, and were never so happy as when they were entertaining their numerous friends.

Throughout his stay in Somerset Mr. Slater was handicapped by deafness, and the last few years of his life were so marred by ill-health that he was no longer able to take an active part in the work of the Section.

C. J. PERRENS.

#### HARRIS DOIDGE

The death of Mr. Harris Doidge on 9 April 1934, at the age of 65 years, was a great shock to his numerous friends, and particularly to his friends in the Entomological Section.

Mr. Doidge had attended a meeting of the Section at East Brent Vicarage on 20 March, and though far from well, seemed in quite good spirits and thought his health was improving. The members of the Section deeply regret his untimely death, for not only was he Treasurer but his genial disposition endeared him to everybody. The deceased gentleman was one of the few original members of the



Section left in the County. Whenever possible he attended the field meetings, and with his keen sense of humour always added to the gaiety of the proceedings.

He had gathered together a very fine collection of British Macro-Lepidoptera which, through the kindness of Mr. W. B. Butler, is now housed in the Museum at Taunton Castle.

Mr. Doidge was a very keen, hard-working entomologist and added several new records to the County list. He always took great interest in the work of the Section.

It was about 1906 that Mr. Doidge settled in Taunton and he became manager of the Somerset Savings Bank in 1911. With regard to the funds of that institution his great ambition was to reach the two-million mark, and he lived long enough to see his desire practically fulfilled.

C. J. PERRENS.

In June 1933 Messrs. Claude Morley, Blair and Doughty spent the month on the Turf Moors, and forwarded the Section a record of their captures on the Moor and in the immediate neighbourhood. The complete list could not be published, but the names of the less common insects in the orders Lepidoptera and Coleoptera form an appendix to this report, Mr. A. R. Hayward having very kindly selected those of the former, and Mr. R. Beck those of the latter order. It is hoped to be able to report on the other orders at some future date.

EXTRACTS FROM MR. CLAUDE MORLEY'S LIST OF LEPIDOPTERA  
WITH A TOTAL OF 306 SPECIES

Gnophria rubricollis.	Eupithecia pygmeata.
Acronycta ligustri.	Philereme vetulata.
„ leporina.	Phemyria bicolorata.
Orthosia suspecta.	„ rivata.
Leucania straminea.	Abrxnas ulmata.
Harmodia nana.	Hydriomena ruberata.
Melanchra stigmatica.	Pelurga comitata.
„ advena.	Ptycopoda immutata.
Cosmia affinis.	Euchloris vernaria.
Hadena leucostigma.	Ectropis luriclata.
Aventia flenula.	Chrysophanus minimus.
Eustrotia uncula.	Hepialus velleda.
Mysticoptera sexalis-ata.	Sesia ichneumiformis.

<i>Sesia formiciformis</i> .	<i>Endothenia ericetana</i> .
<i>Salebria semi-rubella</i> .	<i>Pammene regiana</i> .
<i>Crambus silvellus</i> <i>New record</i> .	<i>Capua grotiana</i> .
„ <i>falsellus</i> .	<i>Phrygas vacuella</i> <i>New record</i> .
<i>Schoenobius forficellus</i> .	<i>Nematois fasciellus</i> <i>New record</i> .
<i>Perinephela lancealis</i> .	<i>Anacamosis anthyllidella</i> .
<i>Pterophorus galactodactylus</i> .	<i>Semasia gallicolana</i> .
<i>Phalonia enicana</i> .	<i>Recurvana leucatella</i> .
<i>Argyroploce salicella</i> .	

EXTRACTS FROM MR. CLAUDE MORLEY'S LIST OF COLEOPTERA  
WITH A TOTAL OF 290 SPECIES

<i>Geodephaga</i> .	<i>Lamellicornia</i> .
<i>Badister bipustulatus</i> .	<i>Rhizotrogus solstitialis</i> .
<i>Anchomenus puellus</i> .	<i>Serricornia</i> .
<i>Hydradephaga</i> or <i>Hydrophilidae</i> .	<i>Elatr balteatus</i> .
<i>Helochares lividus</i> .	<i>Melanotus rufipes</i> .
<i>Laccobius alutaceus</i> .	<i>Athous niger</i> .
<i>Chaetarthria seminulum</i> .	„ <i>longicollis</i> .
<i>Helophorus affinis</i> .	<i>Corymbites tessellatus</i> .
<i>Staphylinidae</i> .	„ <i>quercus</i> .
<i>Falagria sulcatula</i> .	<i>Cyphon coarctatus</i> .
<i>Gryphoena laevipennis</i> .	„ <i>nitidulus</i> .
<i>Quedius cruentus</i> .	„ <i>pallidulus</i> .
„ <i>fumatus</i> .	<i>Scirtes hemisphaericus</i> .
<i>Paederus riparius</i> .	<i>Telephorus thoracicus</i> .
<i>Clavicornia</i> .	<i>Rhagonycha testacea</i> .
<i>Rybaxis sanguinea</i> .	<i>Dasytes plumbeus</i> .
<i>Phalacrus caricis</i> .	„ <i>aerosus</i> .
<i>Subcoccinella</i> 14 punctata.	<i>Cis alni</i> .
<i>Halyzia</i> 14 punctata (conglobata).	<i>Longicornia</i> .
<i>Chilocorus</i> { <i>similis</i>	<i>Strangalia quadrifasciata</i> .
{ <i>renipustulatus</i> .	<i>Phytophaga</i> .
<i>Cercus pedicularis</i> .	<i>Bruchus cisti</i> .
„ <i>bipustulatus</i> .	„ <i>atomarius</i> .
<i>Pria dulcamarae</i> .	<i>Donacia vulgaris</i> .
<i>Laemophloeus ferrugineus</i> .	<i>Cryptocephalus aureolus</i> .
<i>Telmatophilus typhae</i> .	„ <i>bilineatus</i> .
<i>Helocerus</i> { <i>claviger</i> .	„ <i>fulvus</i> .
<i>Anthrenus</i> }	„ <i>pusillus</i> .
<i>Limnius tuberculatus</i> .	<i>Melasoma populi</i> .
	<i>Plagiodera versicolor</i> .



*Phytophaga—contd.*

Phyllodecta } laticollis  
                  } cavifrons

Phyllobrotica 4-maculata.

Luperus betulinus.

Galerucella sagittariae.

„ lineola.

„ californiensis.

„ tenella.

Longitarsus atricillus.

„ ferrugineus.

„ femoralis.

Haltica lythri.

„ ericeti (*Blackdown Hills*).  
          oleracea.

Phyllotreta tetrastigma.

Aphthona lutescens.

„ nonstriata.

„ atratula.

Crepidodera } smaragdina  
                  } fulvicornis

Psylliodes affinis.

Cassida vibex.

„ sanguinolenta.

„ nobilis.

„ flaveola.

*Heteromera.*

Scaphidema metallicum.

Lagria hirta.

Salpingus ater.

Lissodema 4-pustulata.

Oedemera lurida.

Mordellistena pumila.

Anaspis pulicaria.

*Heteromera—contd.*

Anaspis melanostoma.

„ humeralis (fasciata).

*Rhynchophora.*

Rhynchites pauxillus.

Deporaus megacephalus.

Apion viciae.

„ vicinum.

„ ononidis.

„ spencei.

„ pubescens.

Polydrusus micans.

Phyllobius pomonae.

Tanymecus palliatus.

Sitones ononidis.

Liosoma ovatum.

Orchestes iota.

Dorytomus pectoralis.

Bagous linosus.

„ frit.

Tychius tibialis.

Gymnetron labilis.

Anthonomus pomorum.

Nanophyes lythri.

Ceuthorrhynchus ericae.

„ hirtulus.

Ceuthorrhynchidius termina-

Phytobius corneri. [tus

„ waltoni.

Limnobaris T-album.

Magdalis cerasi.

Scolytus rugulosus.

Hylesinus crenatus.