

## The Entomological Section

*President*—Captain E. PAGE, M.C., Ivythorn Manor, Street, Som.

*Treasurer*—Mr. C. J. PERRENS, 8, Park Road, Bridgwater.

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

THE Annual Meeting of the Entomological Section was held at Taunton Castle on Tuesday, 16 February 1937; the President, Captain E. Page, M.C., in the chair.

Mr. A. R. Hayward showed two beautiful specimens of *Aristotelia divisella* taken on the Turf-moor on 28 June 1936. This is an extremely rare insect and does not appear to have been noted before outside the Cambridge and Norfolk fens.

Mr. R. Beck exhibited a very interesting series of illustrations of the varieties of marking on the elytra of the two-spotted ladybird, *Adalia bipunctata*, showing every gradation from a yellow elytron with one black spot to one black with one yellow spot.

Unfortunately we have to report the death of Mr. G. D. Hancock which took place last September. He was one of the older members who took a keen interest in all the proceedings of this Section.

### NOTES BY A. R. HAYWARD

There is very little to report in the way of new County records for 1937,—a disappointing year from the collecting point of view.

Two records from previous years, not hitherto identified and noted are :—

*Recurvaria nanella* Hub. Taken by G. B. Coney at Batcombe in July and August 1934.

*Pthorimaea semidecandrella* Threlfall. On Brean sand-hills by myself, 7 July 1935.

IN 1937.

*Laspeyresia scopariana* H-S. Taken by Mr. Weddell in Asham Wood on 25 April.

This very local and much appreciated species was, when Meyrick's last *Handbook* was published, only known from

localities in Lancashire and Surrey. In 1935 I came across it accidentally in Dorset, just over the Somerset border, and have since been unsuccessfully trying to find it in this County, where it probably exists as the food plant, *Genista tinctoria*, is abundant. It is probably not such a rarity as has been thought, and owing to its early appearance on the wing has been overlooked.

The writer also took :

*Depressaria rotundella* Dgl., Haselbury Park, 30 April.

*Bactra furfurana* Haw., Shapwick, 1 July.

I am able to confirm the identification of *Aristotelia divisella* Dgl., first taken in this County at Shapwick on 28 June 1936, having had the good fortune to take two more on 1 July 1937.

In the report of the Entomological Section for 1936, Mr. W. W. Macmillan reported the capture of *costalis*. This is presumably *Pyralis costalis* Fab., and apparently the only records for the County previously, are one at Batcombe by G. B. Coney in July 1936 and another at Seavington, also in 1936, by T. Hole. I do not think this species has been mentioned in any previous report.

#### NOTES FROM BRIDGWATER DISTRICT FOR 1937,

BY C. J. PERRENS

From the entomological point of view the seasons seem to go from bad to worse. Nobody could say that 1936 was a good year, and 1937 was definitely worse.

There was a marked scarcity of common insects possibly due to the excessively wet spring which must have drowned many hibernating larvae and rotted the pupae.

At Shapwick the flooding was the worst for over thirty years and persisted well into April. There were very few specimens of the common *Taeniocamps* at sallow, and the scarcity of insects was very marked the whole year.

The weather in May was too cold for successful night work, and it was not until June that any good insects were taken. A warm night early in the month, at the brick ponds near Bridgwater, produced six *Spilosoma urticae* at the sheet and a fair number of common insects.

A few specimens of *Colias edusa* were noted in July but none later.

*Noctua ditrapezium* was taken at Holford at the end of July. It is sad to see how the bracken is ousting the heather on parts of the Quantocks.

In early August *Spilodes palealis* was taken at Butleigh at light. This insect had been previously recorded from the County near

Taunton, but the record was a little doubtful, and it was satisfactory to have it confirmed from a fresh locality.

One or two nights with light in early August at Butleigh were quite interesting and the following species taken are worthy of mention: *Zeuzera pyrina*, *Ephyra pendularia*, *Cleara glabraria*, *Drepana binaria*, and *cultraria* as well as many more common species.

The *Vanessas* were unusually scarce and no *C'album* were noted.

The ivy perhaps was a little better than last year. Several *Xylina semibrunnea*, and *X. socia* were seen, quite a number of *Xanthia aurago*, and a few *Calocampa vetusta*.

The writer of these notes collected in various parts of the country last year, and was forced to the conclusion that Lepidoptera were more scarce in Somerset than in the other localities he visited.

Dr. Blachford hunted the ivy at Long Ashton on several evenings, when he saw nothing of interest but a few *Oxyacanthae* and one or two common *Noctuae*.