

THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SECTION

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Committee—The above, with C. S. H. BLATHWAYT, M.A., F.R.E.S., W. A. SEABY, F.S.A., and W. A. WILSON.
Recorders—*Lepidoptera* : A. H. TURNER ; *Coleoptera* : W. A. WILSON, 16 Ballfield Road, Minehead ; *Other Orders* : J. COWLEY.

THE thirty-second Annual General Meeting was held at Taunton Castle on 19 January 1952 ; twelve members were present. The Hon. Secretary of the Entomological Section, Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Science, was elected an Honorary Member *ex officio*. The statement of accounts showed a balance of £11 9s. 5d. as at 31 December 1951.

The past year was an eventful one for the Section, there having been several departures from the former usual activities. Of the first importance to the Section has been the attainment of a membership of 53, which gave us the right to appoint a representative on the Council of the Parent Society ; the President consented to represent the Section on that body. But the membership total should not be regarded with complacency, and it is to be hoped that all will help in keeping up, and increasing, the numbers ; more younger members are particularly needed. Also of great importance has been the co-operation which has been initiated between the Natural History Sections of the Society, each Section undertaking the organization of a proportion of the meetings, members being invited to attend any meeting, no matter which Section may be running it. It is expected that this policy will be continued, and extended, during the coming year. A notable innovation was the Natural History Tent at both Bridgwater Agricultural, and Taunton Flower Shows. At Bridgwater the Section was invited by the Mid-Somerset Naturalist Society to join with other Natural History Societies in providing exhibits, and the large crowds in the tent showed how greatly it was appreciated by the public ; this is believed to have been the first time that such an exhibition has been staged at an agricultural show, and it was singled out for a broadcast commentary in ' The Week in the West '. The tent at Taunton Show was also visited by large numbers who regarded it as a very attractive new departure. At both the Shows Mrs. A. D. Hallam very ably organized the four Sections' exhibits, and the thanks of this Section are accorded to her and to all the others who gave their help. At the Whitsun week-end the South Western Naturalists' Union held their Annual Conference in

Taunton, and this Section took part in the field-meetings and lectures. Mr. W. A. Wilson attended the Congress of British Entomologists in London as the Section's Delegate.

Three indoor and five field-meetings were held during 1951. On 3 March Mr. W. H. Dowdeswell, F.R.E.S., gave a very stimulating and interesting lecture on 'Isolation and Dispersal in Animal Communities'. The Botanical and Geological Sections were invited to join us on 2 June in a coach excursion to Hod Hill, Dorset, on the chalk, and the Section were pleased to welcome also a few archaeologists who wished to see the Iron Age and Roman sites, and Dr. C. D. Day and Dr. A. A. Lisney kindly came over from Dorchester to meet us; the weather was perfect, and the meeting was much enjoyed by all, the entomologists being specially gratified by seeing on the hill, in addition to common species, the Duke of Burgundy (*Hamearis lucina*), Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*), Small Blue (*Cupido minimus*) and Adonis Blue (*Lysandra bellargus*). Another coach excursion was made by the Botanical Section on 16 June to Branton Burrows, and we were invited to join them; though the weather was excellent while going and returning, it was not at all good on the Burrows, and not many of the characteristic insects were found; Mr. E. M. Eustace of Branton, since deceased, kindly led the entomologists. The Entomological Section of the Bristol Naturalists' Society held a joint meeting with us at Berrow on 30 June, when we again enjoyed the opportunity of keeping in touch with our Bristol colleagues. Shapwick Heath was visited on 21 July, and there the President made the unexpected capture of a Silver-spotted Skipper (*Hesperia comma*). On 15 September a party met members of the Botanical and Geological Sections at Uphill, but a high wind prevented much entomological work; a few very worn Chalk-hill Blues (*Lysandra coridon*) were seen on the limestone downland, and after the entomologists had retired, sufficiently though not abundantly satisfied, the botanists secured a Convolvulus Hawk Moth (*Herse convolvuli*). A successful *Conversazione* of all the four Sections was held in Taunton on 15 October. The last meeting of the year was on 17 November, devoted to members' exhibits and reports on the past season; once again it was a poor year for Lepidoptera, but those occupied with other Orders still found plenty to interest them.

The Recorders have continued their work of filing records of the County Fauna in the Museum; they are anxious for it to be known that this work, one of the objectives of the Section at its foundation forty odd years ago, has now been undertaken seriously, and they appeal to members, and to all entomological visitors to Somerset, to give them that help, in providing records of distribution and ecology, which is essential for building up a less incomplete picture of our local fauna. It should be possible to publish in the not too distant future complete annotated lists of the Somerset Lepidoptera, and of the Coleoptera, if only all who can will contribute to the common

fund of information which the Recorders are trying to collect. An appeal is also made to those members who venture into Devon to help the Devon Entomological Section in compiling its faunal lists by passing on their records to the Hon. Secretary, Capt. S. T. Stidston, R.N., Ashe, Ashburton, Devon, or to the Hon. Secretary of this Section, who will forward them.

J. COWLEY,
Hon. Secretary.

SOME RECENT RECORDS OF SOMERSET INSECTS

The account that follows represents a selection of the more interesting insects seen in Somerset during the past ten years. The data has mainly been received from members of the Section, but we would also like to thank Dr. K. G. Blair, Dr. F. R. Browning, Mr. C. N. Colyer and Dr. A. H. Newton for interesting contributions.

Further details concerning the insects listed below may be obtained by consulting the record cards of the Society. It has not been possible in some orders to determine to what extent the following represent county records, due to lack of published literature, but where there is reasonable certainty that an insect has not been recorded before for Somerset the name is marked with an asterisk.

LEPIDOPTERA (Butterflies and Moths)

Danaus plexippus (L.) (Monarch Butterfly). A male was seen at Bickenhall in Sept. 1947. One seen at Crewkerne Sept. 1950. One seen at Bruton, August 1951 (*Entomologist* 84 : 214).

Odd specimens of this American butterfly are taken at intervals in various parts of the country : how they get here is not known, but many may be 'stowaways' on ships.

Nymphalis antiopa (L.) (Camberwell Beauty). Another rare immigrant which comes to us from northern Europe. One was taken indoors at Langport in Feb. 1948 : this is believed to be the first record of the species hibernating in England. Another was seen at Ivy bloom at Taunton in Nov. 1948.

Hesperia comma (L.) (Silver-spotted Skipper). During a Section outing to Shapwick in July 1951, this butterfly was netted on the Turf Moor. None has been reported from Somerset for many years, although the insect is common locally in many parts of England.

Celerio lineata livornica (Esp.) (Striped Hawk Moth). This fine moth comes to us from the North African regions, and occasionally turns up in considerable numbers, as in 1943. It was taken freely at Petunia flowers at Weston-super-Mare in 1950.

Stauropus fagi (L.) (Lobster Moth). One or two specimens of this uncommon moth came to a light-trap at Weston-super-Mare in 1951, and a young larva was taken on Hazel at Shapwick in June. This has successfully pupated.

- Apatele alni* (L.) (Alder Moth). A widespread, but always uncommon moth in the southern half of England—taken in a light-trap at Weston-super-Mare in 1951.
- Heliophobus albicolon* (Hüb.) (White Colon). Generally a coastal species, which, of late years seems to be spreading to some inland districts. It was taken at light at Bickenhall in 1948, and in a Mercury Vapour light-trap at Taunton in 1951.
- **Leucania l-album* (L.) (White 'L' Wainscot). Has become established, in recent years, along the south coast, particularly in South Devon. The first record for Somerset was a very worn male at 'sugar' at Bickenhall in Oct. 1948.
- **Nonagria sparganii* (Esp.) (Webb's Wainscot). Another moth generally found near the coast in south and east England, and South Devon, the larvae living in the stems of Bur-reed. It can now be added to the Somerset list, as a flourishing colony has been discovered near the north coast, 1950 and 1951.
- Dasypolia templi* (Thunb.) (Brindled Ochre). This moth is commoner in the far north (even up to Zetland) than southwards. One was taken near Clifton Bridge (which may have been actually in Gloucestershire), in 1919. A definite record for the county is, however, now to hand—one at M.V. light-trap at Taunton in 1951.
- Procris geryon* (Hüb.) (Cistus Forester). This small green 'Forester' was reported from many places in the county years ago. In 1951 it was found to be still flourishing at Walton and Street.
- **Zygaena trifolii palustris* Ob. (Marsh 5-spot Burnet). This is a marsh form of the Five-spot Burnet, which is somewhat larger, and appears later in the year (July). It was recorded for the first time from Clevedon in 1950.
- Entephria caesiata* (Schiff.) (Grey Mountain Carpet). A moth of the northern moors and mountains, which is not normally found further south than Herefordshire. One was netted at Culbone in June 1947. The larva feeds on Whortleberry, Ling, &c. and there seems little doubt that the species breeds in a few places on Exmoor, as a single specimen was recorded from Withycombe in 1909.
- Chesias legatella* (Schiff.) (The Streak). Nothing seems to have been heard of this moth in the county for many years, but two came to light at Bickenhall in Oct. 1951. Probably the larvae had fed up on some ornamental garden Brooms, as its food-plant, the Wild Broom, does not occur in the immediate neighbourhood.
- **Lampropteryx oregiata* Metc. (Metcalf's Carpet). This 'new' species was discovered near Glastonbury in 1945, and is still flourishing. It is very like the Water Carpet—*L. suffumata* (Schiff.), but is smaller, and has more rounded tips to the forewings.
- **Antigastra catalaunalis* (Dup.) (Catalonian Rosy Pearl). This pretty little Pyraustid moth is a native of Africa, the Canary Is.

and Southern Spain, and very few specimens have ever been taken in this country. There is one in the National Museum of Wales (without data), and one was taken in Hertfordshire in 1867. It can be recognised on the wing by its dancing gnat-like flight. Two were recorded in 1950—one in July, near Gloucester, and one in October at Bickenhall.

**Crambus latistrius* (Haw.) (Broad-streak Grass Veneer). This species occurs in neighbouring counties, but the first record for Somerset was in 1948, when two were taken in the north of the county. Two more were reported from the same place in 1949.

Evergestis pallidata (Hufn.) (Chequered Straw Pearl). Another Pyraustid, which has now been found in the north of the county (1949). It is a very local species in south-eastern England.

Loxostege sticticalis (L.) (Diamond-spot Pearl). A wormwood-feeding species, which should occur freely, but nothing had been heard of it for many years, until 1949, when one was captured in North Somerset.

Marasmarcha lunaedactyla (Haw.) (Livid-crescent Plume). This little Plume was said to inhabit the Berrow sand-dunes many years ago, the larvae feeding on Restharrow. After several quests, it was found again in July 1951, on the Berrow Golf Course.

Lozopera francillana (F.) (Francillon's Carrot Conch). This little Tortrix came to light at Bickenhall in 1951. It feeds on Wild Carrot, and was last reported from Watchet in 1910.

Galleria mellonella (L.) (Large Honeycomb Moth). One came to light at Bickenhall in 1947. It had not been reported for very many years. The larva lives in the old combs in bees' nests.

A. H. TURNER,
Recorder.

COLEOPTERA (Beetles)

Eurynebria complanata (L.). Sand Bay, Kewstoke. A coastal species confined to the south-western area.

Panagaeus crux-major (L.). Catcott Heath. A conspicuous Carabid, the black suture of the elytra forming with a horizontal band a distinct cross on an orange ground.

Bembidion laterale (Sam.). Berrow. Under stones below high-water mark and when tide recedes may be found running in the sunshine.

Brachinus crepitans (L.). Edington. Commonly known as the Bombardier beetle. The species has the power of ejecting from the anus an explosive liquid, which volatilizes as soon as it reaches the air, forming a tiny puff of smoke.

Necrophorus interruptus Steph. Bickenhall.

Necrophorus investigator Zett. Taunton.

Necrodes littoralis (L.). Bickenhall.

The above three species of burying beetles were attracted to light-traps primarily used for Lepidoptera.

- Drusilla canaliculata* (F.). Porlock Weir. Generally associated with various ants, chiefly *Formica sanguinea*, *F. fusca*, *F. exsecta* and *Lasius fuliginosus*, *L. flavus*, *L. niger*.
- Dinarda pygmaea* Wasm. Brent Knoll. Associated with ants (*Formica fusca*).
- Actocharis marina*. Fauv. Berrow. Under sea-weed, etc., usually below high-water mark.
- Quedius riparius* Kell. Cross near Axbridge. First taken at Porlock by Mr. W. G. Blatch and introduced by him as British (1896 *Ent. Mon. Mag.*, 32 : 80).
- Siagonium quadricorne* Kirb. North Hill, Minehead. Under bark of felled logs. The male is furnished with two strong short blunt horns before the eyes and two long curved horns on the mandibles.
- Tetropium gabrieli* Weise. Huish Champflower. A highly localised species, generally occurs in wooded regions where there is a prevalence of larch.
- Phytoecia cylindrica* (L.). Edington. The larva of this rare Longicorn is said to feed on the inner pith of hazel twigs.
- Phyllobrotica quadrimaculata* (L.). Street Heath. The usual food plant is *Scutellaria galericulata* (Common Skullcap).
- Cassida murraea* L. Shapwick, Street Heath and Edington. On *Pulicaria dysenterica* (Fleabane). Both green and red varieties occur. Specimens kept under observation for about a fortnight were seen to change colour gradually from green to red.
- Helops caeruleus* (L.). North Hill, Minehead. Very local, in decaying logs, etc.
- Metoecus paradoxus* (L.). Bickenhall. Parasitic upon wasps, the larvae living in the nests of *Vespula vulgaris* and *V. rufa*.
- Meloe proscarabaeus* L. North Hill, Minehead. Failand. Parasitic upon bees (*Anthophora*).
- Apion scutellare* Kirb. North Hill, Minehead. On *Ulex minor* (Dwarf Furze). The larvae have been observed in galls on the young shoots of *U. minor*. The galls resemble threaded beads (see Wencker, *Apionides L' Abeille*, 117).
- Apion astragali* (Pk.) Frome. On *Astragalus glycyphyllos* (Milk-vetch).
- Larinus planus* (F.). Cross near Axbridge, Edington, Street Heath. On thistles, the larvae living in the heads of the plants.
- Lixus paraplecticus* (L.). Catcott Heath. On *Sium latifolium* (Water Parsnip) and *Oenanthe phellandrium* (Water Dropwort), the larvae living in the stems of these plants. It is one of the fen species of Coleoptera that seems to have disappeared before drainage.
- Grypus equiseti* (F.). Shapwick. Found on *Equisetum arvense* (Horsetail).
- Curculio (Balanobius) salicivorus* Pk. Shapwick, Minehead. The eggs appear to be deposited in galls on Willows instead of in nuts and acorns, as is usually the case with members of this

genus. The larvae have been observed by Perris in galls formed by a species of *Nematus* on *Salix vitellina* (Golden Osier).

Rhynchaenus iota (F.). Shapwick. Catcott Heath. On *Myrica Gale* (Bog Myrtle). The members of this genus of weevils have the posterior femora enlarged, enabling them to leap like the 'flea-beetles' (*Halticidae*).

Hydronomus alismatis (Marsh.). Minehead. On *Alisma plantago* (Water Plantain).

Drupenatus nasturtii (Germ.). Woodcombe near Minehead. On *Nasturtium officinale* (Watercress).

Both *H. alismatis* and *D. nasturtii* are sub-aquatic weevils capable of being submerged for a considerable period.

Mecinus pyraster (Hbst.). Minehead, Uphill. On *Plantago lanceolata* (Ribwort). The larvae form a sort of gall in the centre of the flowering head of the plant.

Gymnetron antirrhini (Pk.). North Hill, Minehead. In profusion on a patch of *Linaria vulgaris* (Toadflax).

Gymnetron beccabungae (L.). Woodcombe near Minehead. On *Veronica beccabunga* (Brooklime). In this genus the larvae, in many instances, form galls on their food plants.

W. A. WILSON,
Recorder.

ORTHOPTERA (Grasshoppers and Crickets)

Tetrix vittata (Zett.). At mercury vapour lamp, Shapwick Heath, 25 Apr. 1951.

**Gomphocerus rufus* (L.). Found on the Polden Hills in several sheltered spots in rough long grass : Walton Hill, 5 Sept. 1948 ; Socombe Hill (Edington), Cock Hill (Bawdrip), and in a railway cutting, Cossington, 5 Sept.-17 Oct. 1950.

ODONATA (Dragonflies)

Coenagrion mercuriale (Charp.). The only Somerset record is based on a single male from the Blackdown Hills, 25 July 1921 (*R. D. R. Troup*), and recorded by H. Slater in these *Proceedings*, (1922, 67 : lxi).

This specimen has been found in the Slater Collection in the Somerset County Museum and its identification confirmed (*J. Cowley*), but the species must be deleted from the Somerset list, as from recent information supplied by Capt. Troup the exact locality of the bog where it was taken is just in Devon, and there does not seem to be any suitable habitat where it would breed on the Somerset side of that particular valley. It is a very local species of inconspicuous and retiring habits, and so far some insufficiently prolonged search of sphagnum bogs on the hills has not led to its rediscovery. Recently discovered in two localities in South Wales (Glamorgan and Pembroke).

MEGALOPTERA (Alder-flies, Snake-flies).

- **Sialis lutaria* (L.). Widely distributed and common at stagnant and sluggish waters ; Bickenhall ; Edington.
 **S. fuliginosa* Pict. Durleigh Brook, Durleigh, 9 June 1950 ; more local and restricted to running water.
 **Raphidia notata* F. Chaffcombe Wood, 2 May 1946.

TRICHOPTERA (Caddis-flies).

- **Grammotaulius strigosus* (Curt.). Catcott Heath, 14, 20 Sept. 1950.
 **Anabolia nervosa* (Curt.). Durleigh Brook, Durleigh, 4 Oct. 1949 ; Cannington Brook, Charlynch, 28 Sept. 1949, and Cannington, 29 Sept. 1951.
 **Hydropsyche ornatula* McL. Horner Water, Luccombe, 13 May 1951.

Holocentropus stagnalis (Albarda). Last recorded from the Turf Moor in 1915, and only known elsewhere in the British Isles from two localities, one in Worcestershire, and Wood Walton Fen, Hunts. It has been found again in three places on the Turf Moor : on Street Heath at a rhine, 23 Apr. 1949 and 4 May 1950 (not found there in 1951), and a deep peat pit, 26 May 1951 ; on Shapwick Heath in numbers at large shallow pools overgrown with Marsh Cinquefoil, 20 May 1950, where in 1951 the ground was still flooded at the end of May and it was not possible to make a proper search ; all the 26 specimens taken 1949-51 are males. Determination confirmed by Rev. Prof. L. W. Grensted.
 **Ecnomus tenellus* (Ramb.). River Brue, Edington Burtle, 23 June 1945.

- **Metatype fragilis* (Pict.). Mill stream, Durleigh, 26 Aug. 1950.

The following species have been caught during 1951 in a 300 c.p. paraffin light-trap at Bickenhall : *Glyphotaenius pellucidus* (Retz.), **Limnephilus decipiens* (Kol.), *L. lunatus* Curt., *L. vittatus* (F.), *L. affinis* Curt., *L. sparsus* Curt., **Asynarchus coenosus* (Curt.), *Stenophylax stellatus* (Curt.), *S. permistus* McL. (also at mercury vapour lamp, Shapwick Heath, 25 Apr. 1951), **S. vibex* (Curt.), *Micropterna lateralis* (Steph.), **Halesus digitatus* (Schrank), *Plectrocnemia conspersa* (Curt.), *Philopotamus montanus* (Don.).

HYMENOPTERA

Symphyta (Saw-flies).

- **Neurotoma saltuum* (L.). Edington, 6 May 1945.
 **Pamphilus vafer* (L.). Bulland Valley, Huish Champflower, 1940's.
 **Xiphodria prolongata* (Geoff.). Cross, Axbridge, 1940's ; Edington, 9 July 1945. The most recent (1951) statement of its distribution is that it is mostly confined to the south-east of a line from the Wash to the new Forest, but has also been found in Notts and Hereford.

- **X. camelus* (L.). Shapwick Heath, June 1933, 25 May 1948 ; Street Heath, Sharpham, 22 May 1949.
- **Hartigia xanthostoma* Eversm. Edington Heath, 20 June 1950 ; Loxley Wood, Shapwick, 22 May 1950. Until very recently confused with another species, and at present only recorded from Herts and Hunts.
- **Arge ochropus* (Gmel.). Bickenhall, 1946.
- **A. gracilicornis* (Klug). Edington Heath, 21, 23 May 1946 ; Loxley Wood, Shapwick, 26 May 1947.
- **Phymatocera aterrima* (Klug). In garden on Solomon's Seal, Taunton, 1951. An alien which has been established in this country for some years, and has already spread northwards from the Home Counties, but it was not previously known to have reached the south-west. Three other reports of damage to the leaves of Solomon's Seal in other parts of the county may prove to have been caused by this species, but can only be confirmed from specimens of the insect.
- Parasitica* (Ichneumon-flies, etc.).
- **Gasteruption jaculator* (L.). A common species, but not previously recorded from the county : Wembdon, 11 July 1920 ; Edington, 26 July, 6 Aug. 1944.
- **G. minutum* (Tournier). Edington, 3 Aug. 1950 ; only detected as a British species in 1951, so that little is yet known of its distribution.
- Aculeata* (Ants, Bees, Wasps).
- **Spintharis neglecta* (Shuck.). Quarry, Cossington, 15 June 1944, 20 June, 1951 ; sand pit, Wembdon, 13, 19 June, 1951.
- **Chrysis pustulosa* Abeille. Street Heath, Sharpham, 7 July 1943.
- **Tiphia minuta* v. d. Lind. Shapwick Heath, June 1933 ; Castle Neroche, Staple Fitzpaine, 25 June 1950.
- **Sapyga clavicornis* (L.). Edington, 12 May, 5 July 1944 ; Durleigh, 9 June 1950 ; Wembdon, 19 June 1951.
- **Deuteragenia intermedia* (Dahlbom). Street Heath, Sharpham, 19 June 1949.
- **Coelocrabro styrius* (Kohl). Loxley Wood, Shapwick, 26 June 1948.
- **C. walkeri* (Shuck.). Loxley Wood, Shapwick, 17 July 1945 ; the same year Mr. G. M. Spooner obtained the first record for Devon and S.W. England.
- **Solenius rubicola* Dufour and Perris. Catcott Heath, 24 June 1944.
- **Corynopus coarctatus* (Scop.). Edington Heath, 30 June 1946.
- **Macropis labiata* (F.). One female at Bramble flower, edge of fen on Catcott Heath, 7 Aug. 1951 ; collects pollen mainly from Yellow Loosestrife and Gipsywort. Yellow Loosestrife was flowering abundantly in the fen, but attempts to find the bee again a few days later were foiled by strong cold winds. Previously only known from Hants, Berks, Surrey, Hunts, and Norfolk.

- **Nomada rufipes* F. Area of Heather at Priddy, 12 Sept. 1944.
- **N. lathburiana* (Kirby). Edington, 25 April 1944, 9 April 1945 ; its host, *Andrena cineraria* (L.), is common in the district.
- **N. hirtipes* Pérez. Edington, 5 May 1948 ; Moorlinch, at communal nest-holes of its host *Andrena bucephala* Steph., 14. 15 May 1950.
- **Stelis phaeoptera* (Kirby). Occasionally about limestone walls in garden, Edington, 22 June-17 Aug. 1944-46.
- **Osmia spinulosa* (Kirby). About limestone quarry at Cossington, 15 June 1944, 27 Aug. 1948.

DIPTERA (True flies).

There are already about 70 species to be added to the full Somerset list given by Audcent in his *Bristol Insect Fauna, Diptera* (1949-50, *Proc. Bristol Nat. Soc.*, 27 : 409-470, 28 : 45-132), so that only a few of the more interesting can be mentioned here. Species marked with an asterisk are additions to the Somerset fauna as recorded in Audcent's main list, though some have been briefly mentioned in the Corrections and Additions to his list (1950, pp. 131-132) or have been published since (E. C. M. d'Assis-Fonseca, 1951, *Ent. Rec.* 63 : 55-59).

Tipulidae (Crane Flies).

- **Erioptera (Trimicra) pilipes* (F.). At mercury vapour lamp, Shapwick Heath, 25 April 1951.

Stratiomyidae (Soldier Flies).

- **Odontomyia argentata* (F.). A small aerial swarm of flies, flashing silver, at Street Heath, Sharpam, 23 April 1949, proved to be males of this rare species, and a few females were also found close to the ground, but no further dancing swarms were seen and observations on this habit could not be completed.
- **Vanoyia tenuicornis* (Macq.). Found in the dunes at Berrow on Bramble leaves, 10 June 1950 ; the next day males were observed dancing in large compact swarms for very brief intervals and only a few inches above the topmost stems of clumps of Bramble and of Sea Buckthorn ; there was no wind, and it appeared that they only flew in absolutely still air, abruptly descending to rest on the leaves at the slightest puffs of breeze ; females, and a few males, were obtained by sweeping Marram and Sea Spurge, and very sparingly by sweeping the Cord Grass in the salt marsh.

Empididae.

- **Wiedemannia (W.) rhynchops insularis* Collin. On stones in rapid stream, Hawkridge, Spaxton, 26 Aug. 1950.

Dolichopodidae (Long-headed Flies).

- **Dolichopus clavipes* Hal. Clay pits, Bridgwater, 4, 12 July 1950 ; salt marsh, Berrow, 16 July 1950 ; Clevedon, 15 July 1951.

- **Poecilobothrus ducalis* (Lw.). Clay pits, Chilton Trinity, 26 Aug. 1950 ; in numbers at a very odoriferous rhine, Burnham, 28 July, 14 Aug. 1951.
- **Tachytrechus consobrinus* (Walk.). Walking on wet flocculent ooze in sphagnum bog, Britty Common, Staple Fitzpaine, 10 June 1950.
- **Orthoceratium lacustre* (Scop.). One on leaf of tree above old mill pool, Durleigh, 9 June 1950 ; one swept in salt marsh, Berrow, 11 June 1950 ; one among Cord Grass, Steart, Otterhampton, 28 Sept. 1950.
- **Thinophilus flavipalpis* Zett. In numbers on wet bare mud in salt marsh, Berrow, 2 June 1950 and several subsequent dates.
- **T. ruficornis* Hal. Berrow, 11 June, 16 July 1950 ; in contrast to the large *T. flavipalpis*, inconspicuous and difficult to catch, and appeared to be confined to a small area of wet mud on the landward edge of the salt marsh.
- **Medeterus flavipes* Mg. Several on gate, Street Heath, Sharpham, 7 July 1951.
- **Rhaphium longicorne* (Fall.). Sphagnum bog, Britty Common, Staple Fitzpaine, 10 June 1950 ; prolonged search on 17 June 1951 only resulted in the capture of about three and the sight of another, all in the area of Bog Bean.

Dorilaidae (Big-headed Flies).

- **Nephrocerus flavicornis* Zett. This large species was formerly supposed to be confined in Britain to the New Forest, and it has been suggested that it might parasitize our only British Cicada, *Cicadetta montana* (Scop.), but there are recent records of the fly from Surrey, Herts, and Cambs, outside the known distribution of the Cicada. A specimen was swept in Loxley Wood, Shapwick, 7 July 1951.

Syrphidae (Hover Flies, Drone Flies).

- **Tubifera cryptarum* (F.). Visiting flowers of Bog Bean, very wary and much more difficult to net than other large *Tubifera*, Britty Common, Staple Fitzpaine, 17 June 1951.
- Anasimyia lunulata* (Mg.). Twice recorded from the Turf Moor (1892, 1920), it has not been rediscovered there during the past ten years, though the other two species of the genus have been taken. A few were taken visiting flowers of Bog Bean on Britty Common, Staple Fitzpaine, 17 June 1951.

Conopidae (Thick-headed Flies).

- **Conops strigata* Wied. Conopids were numerous on Ragwort flowers at Hawkridge, Spaxton, 26 Aug. 1950, with the commoner species was one *C. strigata*.

Trypetidae (Large Fruit Flies, Gall Flies).

- Xyphosia (Acinia) corniculata* (Zett.). Audcent comments that the three old Somerset records need confirmation ; one specimen

was obtained on Catcott Heath, 14 Sept. 1950 ; the host plant is still unknown.

- **Trupanea stellata* (Fuessly). Swept from Sea Aster, the host plant, in salt marsh at Berrow, 2 June 1950.

Sphaeroceridae

- **Sphaerocera monilis* Hal.

**Limosina flaviceps* Zett. Taken with the preceding species on a bracket fungus, Holford, 24 March 1951.

- **Apterina pedestris* (Mg.). A brachypterous species ; under a stone, Edington, 15 May 1951.

Chloropidae (Gout Fly, Frit Fly, etc.).

- **Elachiptera brevipennis* (Mg.). Another brachypterous species ; running on wet peat mud in drove, Edington Heath, 30 May 1951.

Calliphoridae

- **Hypoderma bovis* (L.). The Warble Fly. A male bred 17 May 1950 from puparium found under stone, Edington ; another male in quarry, Cossington, 20 June 1951.

J. COWLEY,
Recorder.