

The Entomological Section

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THE Annual General Meeting of the Entomological Section was held at Taunton Castle on 12 February 1932, the President in the chair.

After some discussion it was decided to purchase *Machaon* pupae from Mr. Newman of Bexley, Kent, and arrange to have the imagines liberated as they emerged in the district on Shapwick Moor in which the food plant (*Peucedanum palustre*) is most plentiful. Also to purchase eggs and have them attached to the food plant.

A winter meeting was held at Batcombe, near Bath, by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Coney to see his splendid collection of Lepidoptera : this was thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed by all the members present, as was also the tea provided by our hosts after the inspection.

The only field meeting was held at Culm Head on 9 June by the kind permission of Lt.-Col. C. J. Walmsley, D.S.O., M.C. Although the weather was perfect insects were particularly scarce ; of lepidoptera only a couple of *Myrtilli* and several *Maculata* and *Euphrosyne* being obtained ; also one specimen of *L. sinapis*. Mr. R. Beck captured several specimens of *Donacia sericea* on the flowers of the Bog Bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*).

About the middle of May the *Machaon* pupae arrived, and were handed to the keeper of Shapwick Moor in breeding-cages with instructions to place them in the most suitable position amongst the food plants, visit them regularly and liberate the imagines as they emerged. This was done, and he reported later that forty had emerged in good condition, thirty-six de-

formed, but these he placed outside the cages and the remainder of the pupae turned black and died.

Towards the end of June the eggs arrived and Messrs. T. and C. J. Perrens kindly took them to the moor and attached them to the food plants. The latter informed me that at a later visit he found one larva almost full fed and one very small, but on a subsequent visit the whole area was inundated. Whatever the result, at any rate, we have the satisfaction of knowing that we have done our best, and we also have to thank the members of the Bristol Naturalists' Society for very generously subscribing £2 2s. 6d. towards defraying the cost of this experiment.

The members will be pleased to hear that Mr. H. Slater has improved in health, and that he and Mrs. Slater are once more in the county, having taken up their residence at Bishops Lydeard.

The season of 1932 has been unfortunate for most lepidopterists, especially those chiefly interested in *Rhopalocera*; the Fritillaries and Vanessids were particularly scarce, also the spring broods of *Rapae napi* and *Brassicae*, though the second brood was quite up to the average if not above it. *Icarus* was scarce all the year, while *Corydon* was about normal. There was a moderate sprinkling of *Edusa*, but *Cardui* was rare.