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The Bulletin



of the Amateur Entomologists' Society

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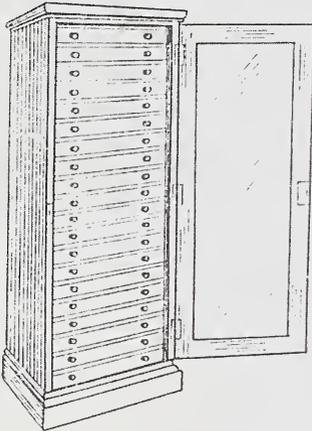
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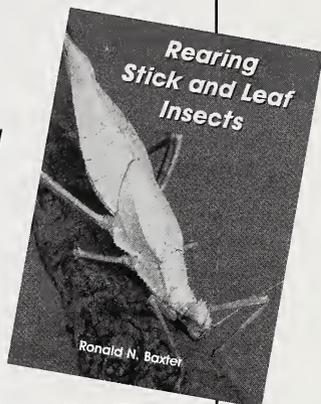
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Bulletin Cover



The photograph on this month's cover is the Striped Hawk-moth *Hyles livornica* (Lepidoptera: Sphingidae). As a resident and breeding species this large and striking moth is found in northern Africa and the Mediterranean Basin, but in the latter it is confined to the coastal zone from Spain to Turkey. It reaches Britain, with increasing regularity, only as an immigrant. It was formerly confused with the North American *Hyles lineata*, but that species has additional white markings on the head and thorax.

Photographed in Kent by Paul Sokoloff



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The Bulletin

of the Amateur Entomologists' Society

Volume 71 • Number 504 October/November 2012

Editorial

As we approach November it will be interesting to see how the wet summer may have influenced the abundance and phenology of insects that emerge as adults in the winter months. Encouragingly, the Mottled Umber moth, *Erannis defoliaria*, has been recorded in early October here in Surrey, somewhat earlier than usual. In common with other species that appear at this time of the year, the Mottled Umber has flightless females, and another species whose males will be on the wing in November, the Winter Moth *Operophtera brumata*, may be particularly susceptible to a protracted wet season. The Winter Moth can be easy to monitor, as large numbers of males are attracted to the females that emerge from their pupae on or below the ground close to woodland trees shortly after dusk, and then crawl up the trunks. Once the females have paired, their eggs are laid close to the ends of branches and twigs further up the trees. In such a woodland habitat the larvae that hatch the following Spring can disperse onto nearby trees by 'ballooning' on silken threads. A third species whose females are flightless, the Vapourer *Orgyia antiqua*, has an earlier but protracted emergence period, from midsummer to October, and it is with an aspect of the mode of dispersal of this species that Ronald Baxter is concerned (page 183 in this issue). He asks the intriguing question, 'How do species of Lepidoptera with apterous females colonise isolated trees?'

This summer was not a complete washout, and a welcome spell of dry weather during August helped to make a four day AES residential camp at the Hill End Centre, adjacent to Oxford University's Wytham Woods Nature Reserve, particularly successful. Members of our junior section, the Bug Club, aged between 7 and 13 years were able to engage directly in a variety of entomological activities and to enjoy the countryside in a safe environment, supported by their parents and by expert entomologists. The society is particularly grateful to Max Barclay (Natural History Museum, London) and Darren Mann (Oxford University Museum of Natural History) for agreeing to give up their time to lead the event, and to Martin Harvey and Clive Turner (Clive being himself a graduate of similar camps run by the AES in the 1980s and nineties) who also participated in leading activities during the weekend. We are indebted to the Redwing Trust, whose generous funding made the weekend possible.



Those of you who attended the Annual Exhibition will have seen the children's excellent exhibit, coordinated by AES member Sally-Ann Spence, describing the weekend's activities and displaying some of the insects they found, some of which were of major entomological interest. For those of you who didn't manage to get to this year's exhibition, the Hill End camp is described in three articles in this issue, commencing on page 185.

We hope that you will enjoy the diversity of articles in this issue of the *Bulletin*. David Keen's 'Letter from Spain' has become a regular feature in recent years, and is building up into a useful store of knowledge on Spanish insects. In the current issue David reviews Spanish winter butterflies (page 204) and in the December issue he will begin a new series on British Immigrant Lepidoptera found in Andalucia. David is also a regular contributor to The Bug Club Magazine. As usual, member contributions to the *Bug Club Magazine*, and of course to the *AES Bulletin*, are always welcome.

Dafydd Lewis

From the Registrar

Despite substantial increases in printing and postal costs, UK membership fees will remain unchanged for the 2013 membership year; however, we have unfortunately had to increase the postal element of overseas subscriptions. An ongoing review of the Society's costs has already resulted in our taking initial steps to reduce journal production costs and this review will continue into next year, with the aim of avoiding further increases in membership subscription rates before all reasonable avenues of cost reduction have been explored.

We have been trying to increase opportunities for members to correspond and network and have received a positive response to the idea of resuming the production of some form of Membership List. We shall be examining this further and, if feasible, we would aim to introduce such a list in October 2014. In the meantime, members should please note that any personal information supplied to the Society is treated in accord with the requirements of current data protection legislation and will be used only for the purposes of administering the Society. We will not divulge personal information to any third party unless legally obliged to do so. Whilst the possibility of publishing a membership list is being considered, there are no plans to issue such a list during the 2012 or 2013 membership years.



Invertebrate Conservation News



Invitation to join the Editorial panel

Information about ICN

Invertebrate Conservation News (ICN), including versions under earlier titles, has been published by the Amateur Entomologists' Society (AES) since 1969. It is aimed mainly at the amateur naturalist and provides a unique range of information and ideas about invertebrate conservation in the UK and worldwide. Its readers include AES members, who rate it as a major benefit of their membership, and external subscribers in various countries. *ICN* is currently produced three times per year and accompanies the *AES Bulletin* (Feb. – Jun. – Oct.) and *Entomologist's Record* (Mar. – July. – Nov.). The AES plans to increase the frequency to four times a year.

Voluntary posts currently available

1. Editorial panel members

You do not need to be a member of the AES in order to join the panel. Your role would be to send the *ICN* editor (currently Dr David Lonsdale) drafts of articles or brief items, covering any of the following aspects of invertebrate conservation worldwide:

- News, projects, or announcements (e.g. regarding the effects of climate change or the implications of legislation) of relevance to the conservation-status of invertebrates in general.
- Specific news (e.g. especially involving habitat management) about particular invertebrate species or sites of particular interest for conservation.
- Results of scientific research of particular interest (e.g. on eco-friendly kinds of pest control).
- New publications, including books and leaflets, on any aspect of invertebrate conservation.
- Events, like field meetings and conferences on aspects of invertebrate conservation.



In order to see what sort of items would be suitable, please see a recent issue of *ICN* (the June 2012 issue is available free from: <http://www.amentsoc.org/icn-example.pdf>). In particular, there is a strong emphasis on items relevant to the protection and management of habitats. For this reason, *ICN* usually does not include news about year-to-year fluctuations in the abundance of species like butterflies, except where this has longer-term implications.

Depending on your interests and your access to Internet and printed publications, you could make use of reasonably authoritative sources such as reports or announcements from conservation organisations, research institutes or government departments. News media and publications such as magazines with a very general readership are not usually suitable sources in their own right but they are sometimes a very useful starting-point for looking for information in more detail.

2. Editorial Assistant (only one post currently available)

Your role would be to:

- look for items of interest and provide drafts, as above for other members of the panel
- deputise for the *ICN* Editor if necessary.
- co-ordinate and collate copy for each issue, in collaboration with the *ICN* Editor.

**Please contact the *ICN* Editor if you are interested, at:
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AES Bulletin Survey

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A swarming of Migrant Hawkers

by Rob Partridge (8956)

11 New Road, Mepal, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB6 2AP.

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On the evening of Sunday the 2nd of September 2012, after a long day in the garden, my wife and I decided to go for a walk around one of our local gravel pits in Block Fen, Cambridgeshire. It was a very fine evening, warm, calm and still sunny at 19.00 hours. Dragonflies were much in evidence, particularly Common Darters, *Sympetrum striolatum*, Ruddy Darters, *Sympetrum sanguineum*, Brown Hawkers, *Aeshna grandis* and Migrant Hawkers, *Aeshna mixta*. As we rounded a corner in one of the most overgrown parts of the bank, we could see immediately some unusual behaviour amongst a group of dragonflies; they were very low to the ground, just a foot or two above the vegetation, and flying madly back and forth in the tightest of circles. When we approached for a closer look, they took no notice of us -- we were able to stand within a yard of all the activity. A dozen or fifteen dragonflies were involved, all were Migrant Hawkers as far as I could tell, and all appeared to be males. We could now see what they were so intent upon. A large anthill was here and there were many flying ants coming up out of it, climbing the grass stems and taking off. These weakly-flying, and probably quite juicy, insects were an easy target for the Hawkers, and they must have taken hundreds of them if the feeding frenzy continued for any length of time. I am sure that this has been observed many times before but I have not yet come across an account of it in the literature that I have.

[*This phenomenon was also observed by members of the Bug Club (i.e. the AES Junior section) during their residential weekend near Wytham Woods, Oxfordshire, in mid-August. -Ed.*]





A pair of Speckled Bush-crickets?

by Rob Partridge 8956

11 New Road, Mepal, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB6 2AP

rpartridge3@aol.com

On the morning of the 2nd of September 2012 at 10 am I went down to the end of our long garden as part of a continuing attempt to get things under some sort of control after the wet spring and early summer. The weather was warm and sunny. On the leaf of one of our perennial geraniums I noticed a female Speckled Bush-cricket, *Leptophyes punctatissima*, sunning herself, and I crouched down for a closer look. It was then I realised that there was also a male of the same species on another leaf about 18 inches away. Both insects were motionless and apparently intent on making the most of the sunshine. As I passed the spot a number of times I kept an eye on them. At 11.00 the male had moved closer to the female by one leaf – a distance of perhaps three inches. At 12.00 they were in the same positions exactly. When I returned to the garden after lunch at 14.00 there had been no change; I watched them closely for 10 minutes and could see no signs of any activity, with neither of them apparently giving the inaudible calls that sound like an explosive tick on a bat detector. I went for a final look at 15.20 to find the male now on the same leaf as the female, about two inches away from her.

We tend to think of the lives of insects as being occupied entirely by either feeding or mating, but neither appeared to take place here. Of course, I might have missed something in the intervals but the change in their positions was minimal. Perhaps this very slow and circumspect approach is typical for this species. Nevertheless, I'm sure it was a very pleasant way to spend almost five hours on a Sunday, and I wish I could have been doing the same!





How do species of Lepidoptera with apterous females colonise isolated trees?

by Ronald N. Baxter (1267)

45 Chudleigh Crescent, Seven Kings, Ilford, Essex, IG3 9AT.

In the *Entomologist's Record* in 1965, P. B. M. Allan asked: 'Can anybody tell me if the male *Erranis defoliaria* Clerck carries the female when paired?' The reason for his request was because he wanted to know how it was that larvae could often be found on large isolated oak trees. How was the tree populated in the first instance, when the female moth is wingless? Allan was of the opinion that the male carried the female while paired to a tree where the apterous female would deposit her eggs. Unfortunately Allan received no replies to his request.

I have often wondered about this myself. I have also wondered the same about the Vapourer Moth, *Orgyia antiqua* Linnaeus. I frequently find the odd *antiqua* larva in my garden – especially on the roses. I have often seen the males flying about the garden but never found a female or a cocoon. I have searched walls, fences, under the garden shed roof and beneath window sills – anywhere where a larva could safely pupate and where the emerging apterous winged females would be safe. Yet there were none.

So from where does the odd larva or two originate? If there had been a cocoon with eggs somewhere, then there would surely be a greater number of larvae present.

The mystery is even greater in the heart of London. Practically in all the London squares and parks males of *antiqua* can be seen flying about during the summer months, searching for females. Wherever the apterous females have emerged, they will mate and deposit their eggs on the surface of their cocoons, where they will remain until the following spring.

Since the larvae are polyphagous there are ample potential foodplants; but it is often a problem for the larvae to locate food, for in many instances they hatch from eggs which are far away from any kind of vegetation.

Many streets of London are lined with London plane, *Platanus acerifolia*. A good example is the Aldwych, where the trees support *O. antiqua* year after year. Cocoons can be found beneath the window sills of Australia House, and many of them have long emerged; some have hatched eggs on them from previous years, while others are covered with the current year's eggs.



The mystery is, how do the larvae get there? Are they blown from the trees by the wind? Do they walk down the trees, across the pavement, up the wall and finally come to rest beneath the window sills? To do this, they would have to avoid a continuous stream of pedestrians. If the larvae purposely descend the tree to pupate, how do they know which direction to walk to reach the window sills?

A greater mystery occurs in early summer when the moths emerge. The apterous females remain on the outside of the cocoon, awaiting a male. Once mated, the female deposits a huge cluster of eggs on her cocoon, where they will overwinter. Next spring, the eggs will hatch. Now, what do the minute hairy larvae do after they have hatched? To survive they must feed, and the only food available is the plane leaves, across the pavement and high up in the trees.

Do the larvae walk down the wall, across the pavement and up the tree to reach the leaves awaiting them? This would be a daunting task. Are they blown on the wind, like spiderlings? One thing is certain: somehow, some larvae achieve their goal, otherwise there would be no more larvae to descend the trees, therefore no more cocoons and no more eggs under the window sills in the autumn.

Yet, year after year the life cycle is continued. Since the plane trees' branches mingle, it is also highly possible for larvae to pass from one tree to another and, instead of pupating in the branches or on the trunk of the tree, some fall to the ground and by chance just happen to walk in the right direction across the pavement, while others meet their fate in the road and are trodden underfoot.

This hypothesis is an attempt to solve the mystery with *O. antiqua* as mentioned above. At present there is no evidence to support this, but then there is no evidence to disprove it either. I shall strive to solve the mystery one way or another.

Meanwhile, I would like to hear from members with their views and observations. If there are sufficient contributions I will compile an article for a future publication.

Reference

Allan, P. B. M. (1965) Dispersal of the Mottled Umber Moth. *Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation* 77: 263.





The AES and Bug Club Residential Weekend at the Hill End Centre, 2012

by George and Oliver Spence

This summer we, along with a lot of other members of the Bug Club, went on a field trip to a place called Hill End, which is next to Wytham Woods nature reserve, near Oxford. We spent three and a half days there with some really cool entomologists; Max Barclay, Darren Mann, Martin Harvey and Clive Turner.

We learnt loads about invertebrates and their chosen habitats. We were taught how to collect in these environments – for instance in meadows, water, woodland and even in the tree tops. We went out at night to set moth traps and wine ropes. We were amazed at not only the variation of moth species but also by the number of water beetles attracted to the lights. On the last night the trap was filled with flying ants. The ants flying earlier in the day attracted lots of dragonflies, and they were incredible. Someone even caught one with an ant in its mouth! We also had a campfire, roasted marshmallows and got to go out in the dark.

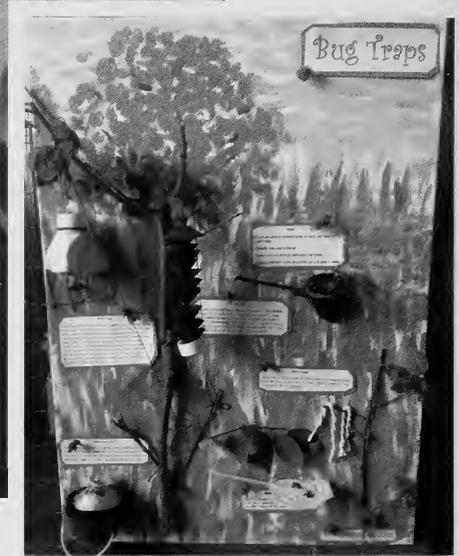
We had made some good friends by now and had fun playing with them around the camp site. During the day Dafydd Lewis had brought some dead creatures: a hedgehog, a thrush and a squirrel. We put them in three different places: the thrush in a tree, the squirrel lying in the meadow and the hedgehog in a plastic bucket in the woods. The flies laid eggs on them in the daytime but when we checked them at night there were burying beetles, ground beetles and rove beetles. We learnt loads about burying beetles and how they help recycle a body.

On site we had a classroom area we called ‘the lab’, and it was in here that our experts taught us about different invertebrates, how to set traps and what to use as well as how and why we pin. After our talks we went out to set pitfall traps and tree traps, and grabbed sweep nets and pooters to use with beating trays. It was very interesting because we learnt to put our traps in a variety of places, not just in one area, to give us a better understanding of what invertebrates lived there.

We learnt why we actually collect insects anyway and why the number of species indicates the health of the environment we find them in. Max told us it is like taking a ‘blood sample’ and finding out if the local environment is healthy. We learnt how to pin, point and lay out wings correctly. We also learnt why it is so important to label our specimens as to what they are, and when and where we found them. Darren told us to keep notebooks and to try to get into the habit of making notes of what



George Spence with his Hazel Leaf-roller weevil, *Apodelus coryli*



A model collage display of some of the variety of traps used at the Hill End camp, shown at the AES Exhibition by Bug Club member Jackson Mockler.

we find in various places. We even found rare species, and Ben, a boy in our group, made a new discovery!

One afternoon we went down to the pond area with our nets. We were surprised to learn that there are loads more invertebrates living in the mud and around the edges than in the water itself. It was good fun using bug hoovers in the meadow and we were amazed at all the really tiny invertebrates we found there when we emptied them out. We even saw ladybirds that have no spots, and springtails that curled up their antennae. Our experts were really fantastic, and we had great fun learning so much about entomology in the field. We made some new friends and wish the trip had been longer!



The False Darkling Beetle *Phloiotrya vaudoueri* (Mulsant) (Coleoptera: Melandryidae): a new foodplant identified for a colony breeding in August

by Ben Houchin and Dylan Houchin

According to Hyman (1992) in his review of scarce and threatened beetles, *Phloiotrya vaudoueri* is found in Oak, Sweet Chestnut, Beech, Ash and Hornbeam, with adults appearing from May to July.

Whilst night searching at the AES Bug Club residential weekend at the Hill End Centre, near Wytham Woods, in mid-August 2012, we discovered adults of this species on willow, and signs of its presence on hazel (see Plate 1).

Females were seen ovipositing on *Salix caprea* on 17th August, with fresh, circular exit holes slightly more than 3.5mm wide on a partly live horizontal bough one metre from the ground, with other old sets of exit holes seen on two hazel boughs *Corylus avellana* in a similar state and around one metre from the ground. The beetle's emergence holes were also present on the willow, showing that it had bred in this tree, and adults were mating on the same willow branches as those from which they had emerged.

Two new tree species and a new month of adult occurrence can thus be added to the known information on this uncommon beetle.

Acknowledgements

We thank Maxwell V.L. Barclay, Darren J. Mann and Clive R. Turner for their expert help with notes and literature and for confirming the identification of the beetles and foodplant.

Reference

Hyman, P. S. (revised Parsons, M S) (1992). A review of the scarce and threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain. Part 1. UK Nature Conservation: 3. Peterborough: UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee.





Insect species recorded at the Hill End Centre near Wytham Wood, August 2012

By Maxwell V.L. Barclay, Isobel Charlton, Archie Hamilton, Dominic Harvey, Martin Harvey, Ben Houchin, Dylan Houchin, Harriet Howard, Dafydd Lewis, Edward Markham, Darren J. Mann, Magnus McLeod, Rachel McLeod, Jackson Mockler, Edmund Scott, George Spence, Oliver Spence, Clive R. Turner, Toby Turner and Peter Williams.

We attended an AES residential weekend at the Hill End Centre from August 16th – 19th 2012, the main purpose of which was to provide an educational experience for members of the AES junior section, the Bug Club, to learn about entomology, guided by experts.

In addition to indoor activities such as curating techniques we employed a variety of trapping methods to obtain insects, including pond dipping, pitfall trapping, a variety of flight interception traps and vacuum sampling. We also ran a Robinson light trap and baited traps for necrophagous species. An overview of the event is provided on page 185 of this issue of the *AES Bulletin* (Spence and Spence, 2012).

Possibly our most intriguing insect find was a parasitic wasp which was subsequently provisionally identified by Dr Gavin Broad at the Natural History Museum as the braconid, *Therophilus dimidiator*, a doubtfully British species. Furthermore, our specimen did not quite match this species, suggesting it might be a new record for Britain, or even a species hitherto unknown to science. It has been sent to a world expert in the Netherlands.

We also discovered a colony of the uncommon False Darkling Beetle, *Phlotrya vaudoueri* at the site. This discovery was made by two Bug Club members, who then researched the beetle and discovered new information about its biology. Details are published separately in this issue of the *AES Bulletin* (Houchin and Houchin, 2012).

Another exciting beetle find was the Hazel Leaf-roller weevil, *Apoderus coryli*. This was found by Bug Club member George Spence, and this find is described in more detail in the current issue of the *Bug Club Magazine*.

In total we recorded and identified 181 insects including 77 species of beetles and 63 species of butterflies and moths. In addition to the insects listed below, we also recorded the spider *Araneus diadematus*, the harvestman *Dicranopalpus ramosus* and the woodlouse *Oniscus asellus*.

Our insect species list for this site is as follows:



Insect Order	Family	Species	English name
Coleoptera	Atelabidae	<i>Apoderus coryli</i>	Hazel Leaf-roller weevil
	Cantharidae	<i>Rbagonycha fulva</i>	Soldier beetle
	Carabidae	<i>Abax paralleipedus</i>	A ground beetle
	Carabidae	<i>Agonum emarginatum</i>	A ground beetle
	Carabidae	<i>Agonum fuliginosum</i>	A ground beetle
	Carabidae	<i>Agonum obscurum</i>	A ground beetle
	Carabidae	<i>Carabus nemoralis</i>	European Ground Beetle
	Carabidae	<i>Dromius quadrimaculatus</i>	A ground beetle
	Carabidae	<i>Elaphrus riparius</i>	A ground beetle
	Carabidae	<i>Loricera pilicornis</i>	A ground beetle
	Carabidae	<i>Notiophilus rufipes</i>	A ground beetle
	Carabidae	<i>Ocys harpaloides</i>	A ground beetle
	Carabidae	<i>Platynus assimilis</i>	A ground beetle
	Carabidae	<i>Pterostichus madidus</i>	Black Clock Beetle
	Chrysomelidae	<i>Cassida flaveola</i>	A tortoise beetle
	Chrysomelidae	<i>Cassida rubiginosa</i>	A tortoise beetle
	Ciidae	<i>Cis bilammelatus</i>	A minute fungus beetle
	Ciidae	<i>Cis vestitus</i>	A minute fungus beetle
	Coccinellidae	<i>Coccidula rufa</i>	A ladybird
	Coccinellidae	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>	7 spot ladybird
	Coccinellidae	<i>Halyzia 16-guttata</i>	Orange ladybird
	Coccinellidae	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	Harlequin ladybird
	Coccinellidae	<i>Propylea 14-punctata</i>	14 spot ladybird
	Coccinellidae	<i>Subcoccinella 24-punctata</i>	24 spot ladybird
	Curculionidae	<i>Ceutorhynchus obstrictus</i>	A weevil
	Curculionidae	<i>Cionus alauda</i>	A figwort weevil
	Curculionidae	<i>Cionus scrophulariae</i>	A figwort weevil
	Curculionidae	<i>Cionus tuberculosus</i>	A figwort weevil
	Curculionidae	<i>Curculio nucum</i>	Hazel nut weevil
	Curculionidae	<i>Drupenatus nasturtii</i>	A weevil
	Curculionidae	<i>Hypera rumicis</i>	A weevil
	Curculionidae	<i>Polydrusus pterygomalis</i>	A weevil
	Curculionidae	<i>Sitona lineatus</i>	A weevil



Pond dipping at the Hill End Centre.



Bug Club members erecting a sea, land and air malaise trap at the Hill End Centre.



Insect Order	Family	Species	English name
	Dytiscidae	<i>Agabus bipustulatus</i>	A water beetle
	Dytiscidae	<i>Agabus guttatus</i>	A water beetle
	Dytiscidae	<i>Agabus sturmi</i>	A water beetle
	Dytiscidae	<i>Hydroporus palustris</i>	A water beetle
	Dytiscidae	<i>Hydroporus planus</i>	A water beetle
	Dytiscidae	<i>Hydroporus striola</i>	A water beetle
	Dytiscidae	<i>Ilybius ater</i>	A water beetle
	Dytiscidae	<i>Ilybius fuliginosus</i>	A water beetle
	Elateridae	<i>Athous bicolor</i>	A click beetle
	Elateridae	<i>Melanotus castanipes</i>	A click beetle
	Elateridae	<i>Stenagostus rhombeus</i>	A click beetle
	Endomychidae	<i>Endomychus coccineus</i>	A ladybird mimic beetle
	Erirhinidae	<i>Notaris acridulus</i>	A weevil
	Gyrinidae	<i>Gyrinus substriatus</i>	Whirligig beetle
	Halipidae	<i>Halipus lineatocollis</i>	A water beetle
	Hydrophilidae	<i>Anacaena bipustulata</i>	A water beetle
	Hydrophilidae	<i>Cercyon pygmaeus</i>	A water beetle
	Hydrophilidae	<i>Helophorus brevipalpis</i>	A water beetle
	Hydrophilidae	<i>Helophorus minutus</i>	A water beetle
	Hydrophilidae	<i>Hydrobius fuscipes</i>	A water beetle
	Hydrophilidae	<i>Laccobius minutus</i>	A water beetle
	Lucanidae	<i>Dorcus parallelipipedus</i>	Lesser stag beetle
	Lymexylidae	<i>Lymexylon navale</i>	A ship timber beetle
	Melandryidae	<i>Orchesia undulata</i>	A false darkling beetle
	Melandryidae	<i>Phloiotrya vaudoueri</i>	A false darkling beetle
	Mycetophagidae	<i>Mycetophagus quadripustulatus</i>	A fungus beetle
	Oedemeridae	<i>Oedemera nobilis</i>	A thick legged flower beetle
	Ptinidae	<i>Ptinus sexpunctatus</i>	A beetle
	Salpingidae	<i>Rhinosimus planirostris</i>	A beetle
	Scarabaeidae	<i>Aphodius rufipes</i>	A dung beetle
	Scirtidae	<i>Cyphon palustris</i>	A marsh beetle
	Silphidae	<i>Nicrophorus humator</i>	Black Burying beetle



Insect Order	Family	Species	English name
	Silphidae	<i>Nicrophorus vespilloides</i>	Common burying beetle
	Silphidae	<i>Silpha atrata</i>	A carrion beetle
	Staphylinidae	<i>Gabrius breviventer</i>	A rove beetle
	Staphylinidae	<i>Lesteva heeri</i>	A rove beetle
	Staphylinidae	<i>Metopsia clypeata</i>	A rove beetle
	Staphylinidae	<i>Ocyopus olens</i>	A rove beetle
	Staphylinidae	<i>Oxypoda elongatula</i>	A rove beetle
	Staphylinidae	<i>Paederus littoralis</i>	A rove beetle
	Staphylinidae	<i>Philonthus cognatus</i>	A rove beetle
	Staphylinidae	<i>Stenus bimaculatus</i>	A rove beetle
	Staphylinidae	<i>Stenus fulvicornis</i>	A rove beetle
	Tenebrionidae	<i>Prionychus ater</i>	A darkling beetle
Dermaptera	Forficulidae	<i>Forficula auricularia</i>	Common earwig
Diptera	Rhagionidae	<i>Rhagio tringarius</i>	Marsh snipe fly
	Sarcophagidae	<i>Sarcophaga carnaria</i>	A flesh fly
	Scathophagidae	<i>Scathophaga stercoraria</i>	Yellow dung fly
	Sciomyzidae	<i>Coremacera marginata</i>	Snail killing fly
	Stratiomyidae	<i>Microchrysa polita</i>	Black-horned Gem Soldierfly
	Stratiomyidae	<i>Stratiomys potamida</i>	Soldier fly
	Syrphidae	<i>Heliophilus pendulus</i>	A hoverfly
	Syrphidae	<i>Volucella inflata</i>	A hoverfly
	Tachinidae	<i>Phasia hemiptera</i>	A shield bug killing fly
Hemiptera	Acanthosomatidae	<i>Acanthosoma baemorrhoidale</i>	Hawthorn shield bug
	Acanthosomatidae	<i>Elasmotethus interstinctus</i>	Birch shield bug
	Acanthosomatidae	<i>Elasmucha grisea</i>	Parent bug
	Cicadellidae	<i>Aphrodes bicinctus</i>	A leafhopper
	Cicadellidae	<i>Cicadella viridis</i>	A leafhopper
	Coreidae	<i>Coreus marginatus</i>	Dock bug
	Miridae	<i>Pitbanus maerkeli</i>	A bug
	Nabidae	<i>Himacerus apterus</i>	Tree damsel bug
	Pentatomidae	<i>Dolycoris baccarum</i>	Sloe bug



Insect Order	Family	Species	English name
	Pentatomidae	<i>Palomena prasina</i>	Green shield bug
	Pentatomidae	<i>Pentatoma rufipes</i>	Forest bug
	Rhopalidae	<i>Rhopalus subrufus</i>	A bug
	Veliidae	<i>Velia caprai</i>	Water cricket
Hymenoptera	Apidae	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>	Bumblebee
	Apidae	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	Bumblebee
	Braconidae	<i>Therophilus ?dimidiator</i>	A parasitic wasp
	Ichneumonidae	<i>Habronyx nigricornis</i>	A parasitic wasp
	Ichneumonidae	<i>Mastrus sp.</i>	A parasitic wasp
	Ichneumonidae	<i>Nematomicrus tenellus</i>	A parasitic wasp
	Ichneumonidae	<i>Netelia infractor</i>	A parasitic wasp
	Ichneumonidae	<i>Ophion pteridis</i>	A parasitic wasp
	Ichneumonidae	<i>Polytribax perspicillator</i>	A parasitic wasp
Lepidoptera	Arctiidae	<i>Eilema griseola</i>	Dingy Footman
	Arctiidae	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>	Ruby Tiger
	Drepanidae	<i>Drepana falcataria</i>	Pebble Hook-tip
	Geometridae	<i>Camptogramma bilineata</i>	Yellow Shell
	Geometridae	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>	Green Carpet
	Geometridae	<i>Cosmorhoe ocellata</i>	Purple Bar
	Geometridae	<i>Epione repandaria</i>	Bordered Beauty
	Geometridae	<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>	Common Carpet
	Geometridae	<i>Idaea aversata</i>	Riband Wave
	Geometridae	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	Brimstone Moth
	Geometridae	<i>Ennomos alniaria</i>	Canary-shouldered Thorn
	Geometridae	<i>Abraxas grossulariata</i>	Magpie Moth
	Geometridae	<i>Alcis repandata</i>	Mottled Beauty
	Hepialidae	<i>Hepialus sylvina</i>	Orange Swift
	Lasiocampidae	<i>Eutrix potatoria</i>	Drinker moth
	Lycaenidae	<i>Poliommatus Icarus</i>	Common Blue
	Lycaenidae	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Small Copper
	Lymantriidae	<i>Euproctis similis</i>	Yellow-tail moth
	Lymantriidae	<i>Lymantria monacha</i>	Black Arches
	Noctuidae	<i>Acronicta tridens/psi</i>	Dark / Grey Dagger
	Noctuidae	<i>Amphipoea oeculea</i>	Ear Moth



Plate 1. The False Darkling Beetle *Phloiotrya vaudoueri* found on willow at the AES Bug Club residential weekend at the Hill End Centre, near Wytham Woods, in mid-August 2012.



Plate 2. Damselfly with second abdomen.

Photo: Martin Probert







Plate 4. Some of the butterflies found by John Woolmer in Tanzania.; 1. *Pseudoacrea boisduvali*; 2. *Euphaedra neopbron littoralis*; 3. *Charaxescastor iringa*; 4. *Acreea egina*; 5. *Antanartia schaeneia*; 6. *Bicyclus ena arusba*; 7. *Charaxes baumani*; 8. *Junonia sophia*.



Insect Order	Family	Species	English name
	Noctuidae	<i>Amphipyra pyramidea</i>	Copper Underwing
	Pyralidae	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	Garden Grass-veneer
	Pyralidae	<i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>	Mother of Pearl
	Sphingidae	<i>Dielephila elpenor</i>	Elephant Hawk-moth (caterpillar)
	Tortricidae	<i>Acleris forsskaleana</i>	A micro-moth
	Tortricidae	<i>Agapeta hamana</i>	A micro-moth
	Tortricidae	<i>Cydia pomonella</i>	Codling moth
	Tortricidae	<i>Cydia splendana</i>	A micro-moth
	Tortricidae	<i>Rhopobota naevana</i>	Holly tortrix
	Tortricidae	<i>Zeiraphera isertana</i>	A micro-moth
Odonata	Aeshnidae	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	Southern hawkler
	Aeshnidae	<i>Aeshna grandis</i>	Brown hawkler
	Libellulidae	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	Common darter
Orthoptera	Acrididae	<i>Chorthippus parallelus</i>	Meadow grasshopper
	Tetrigidae	<i>Tetrix subulata</i>	Groundhopper
	Tettigoniidae	<i>Leptophyes punctatissima</i>	Speckled bush cricket
	Tettigoniidae	<i>Metrioptera roeselii</i>	Roesel's bush cricket
	Tettigoniidae	<i>Pholidoptera griseoptera</i>	Dark bush cricket
Trichoptera	Leptoceridae	<i>Mysticodes longicornis</i>	A caddisfly





Udzungwa National Park (Southern Tanzania) April 2012

by John Woolmer

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The Udzungwa park is situated in southern Tanzania, in the Morogoro region between Dar and Iringa. It covers 1,990 square kilometres and rises from 250m to Mt Lohomero at 2576m. It has many endemic species of primates, birds, plants and insects. Jan Kielland (in *Butterflies of Tanzania*) estimates that there are nearly 500 species in the park area! The park is very beautiful, full of forest trails, waterfalls and rivers. The Great Ruaha river which flows out of the magnificent Ruaha Game Park, many miles to the west, is the largest river and is important for hydro-electric power.

In April this year, I and my wife Jane had the opportunity to revisit Tanzania. My youngest daughter Katy and her husband Ben run a remarkable project in Iringa which employs nearly a hundred deaf or severely handicapped people. (Google 'Neema Crafts' if interested).

We were met at Dar airport early in the morning by Katy and Ben. They drove us to the Twiga Hotel on the edge of the Udzungwa National Park. The hotel had a wonderful location, good accommodation, but distinctly limited menu! Next morning we walked to the park entrance. Before paying our \$20 to enter, Katy looked at the posters. 'Your photos Dad' she exclaimed, looking at a large butterfly poster. They were, and (pleasingly) acknowledged to us. There were about 12 of our photographs – also some set specimens taken by Colin Congdon, the acknowledged Tanzanian butterfly expert.

We weren't allowed to wield a net in the Park. After meeting the park ecologist and pulling rank by giving him an Arusha National Park Guide Book (with many of our photographs from 2000) I was allowed to capture and release the next day, which was useful for confirming identifications and helping with the occasional photo.

The first day involved some pleasant walking to a small waterfall, some nice sightings of Swallowtails, Blue Mother of Purple, Gold Banded Forester, but not much photography except for a rather beautiful greenish-blue butterfly *Euryphura achlys* with strangely shaped wings. I had the opportunity to photograph it with open wings but was too slow! I hadn't met this family before which has only eight species throughout Africa.

The next day, we walked up the path beside the big waterfall which is nearly 200 metres high. The walk took us through a pleasant forest (with



a mild warning of the presence of the deadly Vine Snake). At the beginning of the path, beside a little stream there were lots of butterflies including a lovely *Beberia mardania orientalis*.

This was a family that I had only previously met in Kakamega Forest in Kenya. Soon afterwards Jane encountered a fine Gold-banded Forester (*Euphaedra neophron* – subspecies *littoralis*) which is much bluer than *violacea* which we had photographed in Arusha. These lovely butterflies were very common at Udzungwa. We had only seen two in ten days of photography in the Arusha National Park in 2000.

We climbed for about two hours, not seeing many species - a few small acreids flitted in and out of the shade. There was also a surprising lack of birds although we did glimpse some noisy Hornbills. We encountered *Catuna erithea*, previously seen on the forest floor in Kakamega. We picnicked beneath the waterfall – the family were amazed that I had managed the two-hour climb with two artificial hips – it is interesting what butterflies can do for one's stamina! The waterfall has three stages with drops of 170m, 30m and 70m. Not quite as spectacular as the Iguazu Falls in N. Argentina, but very beautiful. There is a fine view of the countryside when you reach the top, and a nice collection of Busy Lizzies growing by the edge of a fast flowing stream.

After the picnic lunch, we descended. From nowhere, the butterflies started to appear. The brightly coloured *Euphaedra castanoides* was maddeningly elusive. It settled several times along the path and then darted into the undergrowth and disappeared while I was photographing *Euxanthe tiberius*. This is a magnificent forest species with deep red forewings which is said to skulk in undergrowth and to be hard to find.

While the others were having a swim in a lovely lake beneath the waterfall, *Leptomyrina hirundo*, one of the many tailed blues, appeared beside me. During the descent, we walked along a ridge which was clearly a hill-topping meeting point; we started to see a number of *Charaxes* and other species mainly flying or resting in the treetops.

Further down, we saw *Pseudacraea boisduwali* in almost the same place that we had seen *Acraea egina* on the way up. The larger butterfly, the *Pseudacraea*, is a very good mimic of the Acraeid.

Mimicry is one of the amazing phenomena of African butterflies. Palatable species gain a measure of protection from birds and other predators by mimicking poisonous ones. The most interesting is *Papilio dardanus*, which was also present. The male is a large whitish swallowtail; the female, which occurs in many different guises throughout Africa, mimics different species according to availability. Professor Clark,



a geneticist with an interest in butterflies, by cross breeding broods from different females did some vital genetic work which helped to unravel the genetic problems of rhesus blue babies. [*Clarke's work resulted from his answering an advertisement in the AES Bulletin, in 1952. -Ed.*]

At the foot of the hill, we heard a very noisy prayer time (praying against the devil our guide said – characteristic African prayers of exorcism, I said!) in a Pentecostal church. Various Swallowtails were flying around quietly in a flowery patch where we had photographed the *Bebearia* in the morning.

The next morning, we found some *Charaxes* by the park entrance, including the unusually small *Charaxes baumanni*. We gave the park officials a disc of photos and were invited to come back for a three day trek to a butterfly rich part of the park next year! A tempting, if somewhat daunting, prospect for a 70 year old with two artificial hips!

The environs of Iringa and a trip to Mbulu

Udzungwa was the main butterfly expedition of the holiday. However, we also stayed on an attractive farm South of Iringa with excellent food and some light woodland. Here I found a 'charaxes' tree which housed some bright green beetles and *C. castor*, *candiope*, *tavetensis* and *xipares*. The tree was oozing with an almost invisible gum which attracted the butterflies like a light attracts a moth. Nearby a termite's nest exploded. We watched about twenty different species of birds descending for their evening meal, while high up in the sky passing raptors waited for any survivors. The next day, some nice skippers, including *Metisella kambowe*, were sunning themselves. *Neocoenyra gregorii* proved the adage that Browns can be beautiful.

The paths around Katy and Ben's house, in Iringa, yielded some of the common butterflies. Jane took a nice photo of the Yellow Pansy, *Junonia hierta*. I also photographed various blue species (including the ubiquitous Long-tailed Blue which is common in Europe). We visited the riverside camp where Katy and Ben had been to for language training (they have also learnt sign language, to communicate with their many deaf employees). *Axiocerses bambana*, a red tailed Lycaenid, was a nice find. We climbed a precarious rock and observed some hill-topping *Charaxes*. *Charaxes cedreatis* was photographed at a distance resting in a tree. No snakes were seen – last time Ben and Katy met a python! They have also had Black Mambas, Puff Adders and a Cobra in the gardens of various houses that they stayed in. Their own house seemed fairly safe except for the occasional scorpion on the walls! We visited some caves which



had rock paintings thought to be 30,000 years old and had one fabulous expedition to the hills high above Iringa. This involved following an intrepid lady driver up the most precarious tracks and then through head high grass. The views were amazing but the butterflies a bit lacking. It was nice to have Katy wielding a net as she had done with great effect in Kakamega Forest many years earlier.

I saw some Clouded Yellows (left behind on mountains in Africa billions of years ago – some very large Monarchs, a few Charaxes and a fine Red Admiral, *Antartia schaenia* which was in the process of ovipositing. In total, in the Iringa/Udzungwa area, I must have seen over a hundred species, many of them new to me.

I was so busy in Arusha (on church work) that I had little time for photography. We visited Mbulu, travelling up a winding mountain track with great views of Lake Manyara. I was allowed a brief stop in the forest and saw a bright blue Charaxes which had settled to feed on the road. It was well camouflaged and I was very pleased to spot it before disturbing it. It was my first encounter with *Charaxes etesipe*. This was my most pleasing photograph of the trip. There wasn't much else flying in the forest but I guess if I had had longer we would have made some good discoveries. As it was, we were rather late for a group in Mbulu who had been waiting all day for us to arrive. Despite the new god (the mobile phone) communications and planning in Africa is very haphazard!

I had one spare day in Arusha. I walked by the river near where I had walked with a friend who saw a green snake (perhaps a Green Mamba) on an earlier walk. I photographed an attractive Brown, *Bicyclus ena*, and the quiescent *Junonia sophia*. That concluded the Tanzanian butterfly photography. I have written elsewhere a report on the spiritual side of the trip! I left well-pleased, and am much looking forward to my next visit. I await Colin Cogdon's advice as to whether the three-day hike in the Udzungwa Mountains will be profitable for lepidoptera.

Some of John's photographs of Tanzanian butterflies are shown in Plate 4.





Damselfly with two abdomens (Odonata: Coenagriidae)

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Abstract

A damselfly with two abdomens is photographed. Two possibilities are considered: whether it was a mutant, or a pair in tandem attacked by a predator.

Keywords: Odonata, Zygoptera, damselfly, *Vespula*, wasp

Damselflies, when paired up, appear in one of two configurations: either in tandem, the claspers at the end of the male's abdomen having hold of the female by the neck; or in mating position, the abdomen of the female bent under to make contact with the pairing organs beneath the second abdominal segment of the male.

On 30 May 2012, among herbage at the side of a path, and about 30cm above the ground, I passed what appeared to be two damselflies paired up in the manner of beetles, that is, with the male on the female's back (Plate 2). This was so unexpected that I paused to investigate. There were indeed two abdomens, but only one head. And only six legs. The damselfly had a second abdomen reaching upwards from behind the head.

My immediate impression was that I had encountered a mutant damselfly. There are unsubstantiated records of a longhorn beetle with the two elytra replaced by a seventh and eighth leg (Bateson 1894: 148) and of a Six-Spot Burnet moth with one leg replaced by a fifth wing (*ibid*: 149), which are types of transformation known as 'homeosis'. There are also verified records of insects with supernumerary eyes, wings, antennae, palpi and legs (*ibid*: 280, 281, 475). Subjecting *Drosophila* to unusual temperature shocks during development can produce similar abnormalities (Wigglesworth 1959: 97). It seems unlikely that a prothorax could become an abdomen, but the damselfly might have had a parasitic headless twin, much in the manner of the Indian boy Laloo who exhibited with P. T. Barnum during the late 1800s: his headless twin was attached to his stomach by its shoulders.

But closer observation (*see photograph, Plate 2*) revealed that the additional abdomen was 'upside down', and that the subject of the photograph had once been a pair of mating damselflies (*Erytbromma najas*). The female was complete, but the male was now without head, wings, or legs. The headless wingless legless thorax is visible at the upper end of the second abdomen.



It would seem that a pair of damselflies in tandem had been attacked. There are reports in earlier *AES Bulletins* of attacks on dragonflies by wasps (Vespidæ) and by hobbies (*Falco subbuteo*). Descriptions of hobbies taking dragonflies suggest that there would have been little left after the attack: the insects are captured and eaten on the wing (Cleverly 1994; Phalan 1994; Picknell 1994). Descriptions of wasps attacking dragonflies make no mention of the removal of body parts (Cobb 1992; Majerus 1993; Botterill 1993). On the other hand, in descriptions of wasps attacking moths, both heads and wings may be removed (Cribb 1991; King 1994; Jones 1994).

Damselflies (Zygoptera) are much less powerful than dragonflies (Anisoptera): in an encounter with a wasp, damselflies are doubtless as easily overcome as moths. My hypothesis is that a wasp had tackled the tandem damselflies in the way it would a moth, biting off the wings and head of the male, and, in this case, the legs as well. It would also appear, looking at the image, that part of the thorax is missing, either torn off or chewed off. Frank Botterill (1993) reports seeing a wasp feeding from a hole gnawed in a dragonfly's thorax.

The nervous system of an insect consists of a double cord running the length of the body. At intervals, swellings form localised nerve-centres, or 'ganglia'. The head ganglia constitute the 'brain'. Other ganglia control the local muscles, and they do this even when, in laboratory experiments, the head has been removed. Our damselfly with two abdomens – if my understanding is correct – provides a neat example, without the intervention of man, of this localised control. The brain of the male, before the decapitation took place, will have excited control centres in the appropriate ganglia, and these will have moved the abdomen to make contact with the neck of the female, and controlled the claspers to take a firm grip. The loss of the head prevented any subsequent inhibitory influence from the brain, and so the ganglion controlling the grip of the claspers continued to exert control. As a result, the headless abdomen had become a permanent fixture on the neck of the female.

The female damselfly, after I had taken the photograph, flew off, its flight unaffected by the extra anatomy.

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Does the Figwort weevil breed on buddleia?

The Figwort Weevil *Cionus scrophulariae* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) did not breed on *Buddleia davidii* in an investigation on the banks of the Thames at Brentford, Middlesex, in 2012

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Buddleia has long been known as a foodplant of the Figwort weevil, but whether it also breeds on it has remained obscure due to the large size, abundant leafage and ubiquity of the plant, making observations on this shrub difficult.

Twenty seven *Cionus scrophulariae* adults were taken from a *Buddleia davidii* bush on the Thames bank at Strand on the Green in late May and introduced into a muslin cage around a buddleia branch on my patio. They fed on the stems and leaf ribs, and mated, but there was no sign of larvae, larval leaf damage or cocoons by 22nd July 2012, by which time nearly all of the new generation adults had emerged from the cocoons on the figwort *Scrophularia auriculata* on my patio and on the Thames bank at the Strand on the Green. The tiny buddleia buds may be too small for egg laying: on figwort, *C. scrophulariae* larvae feed on the buds and leaf surfaces, and may find buddleia leaves somewhat unpalatable. Neither have I found them to feed on buddleia at nearby Kew Bridge.

I dissected feeding holes in the buddleia leaf tips under a microscope but they were shallow, with no sign of eggs. On 22nd July 2012 the flowers on the small floret in the muslin cage had died – upon inspection, indoors, an adult was found, with signs that it had been feeding on the stem, but no sign of larvae, cocoons or larval damage to the tiny buds, all of which flowered.

Strand on the Green is favourable for addressing this question since the buddleia and figwort are interspersed along the Thames bank, and the

buddleia are a conveniently small size for observation because they are cut down annually by the residents. *C.scrophularia* appeared, feeding on both plant species, in May 2012 – I counted seventy adults on one *Buddleia davidii* on the 25th, and these were mating, but at no time during the spring and early summer was there the slightest sign of Cionus larvae, or of larval leaf damage, let alone cocoons; whereas larval damage to the figwort aquatic leaves and buds was very severe. Adults were found on the buddleia several weeks later than on the figwort, so it is at least as attractive as a food source, but only in this weevil's adult stage.

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One of the insect traps used at the Hill End residential camp (see articles beginning on page 185 of this issue). Lindgren funnel traps are a series of black funnels suspended one on top of the other from a branch or rope between two trees. They mimic standing trees and attract wood boring beetles.



Letter from Spain – 16th in a series – Spanish winter butterflies, notes on 2011-12 and a species review

by David Keen (3309L)

Calle Casto Bancalero 11, 41650 El Saucejo, Sevilla, Spain.

The winter of 2011-12 was extremely dry in this part of Spain and this resulted in a great reduction in the number and variety of wild flowers and, as a consequence there were far fewer insects, including butterflies, to be seen. I did observe a total of seventeen species of butterflies over a total of 19 days when records were made. None of these species were “new” but the observations continue to prove that a lot of the species found here are “out of season”. There was a highlight of the winter however – the publication in December 2011 of a wonderful book by Olivares, *Las Mariposas diurnas de Sierra Nevada*.

As this new book contains a comprehensive account of the flight periods and uses nomenclature based on recent revisions, now would seem to be a good time to compare my records with those in this book and to bring the scientific names I have used into line with these revisions. Where relevant I will include my records for the winter of 2011-12. I will follow the order in which the species are dealt with by Olivares and compare, in each case, my records with his, starting with the HesperIIDae.

Olivares records 18 species of the HesperIIDae from the Sierra Nevada (plus another that is probably present) but he has not recorded any of these during the four winter months. Thus my records for the Mallow Skipper, *Carcharodes alceae*, would seem to be of considerable interest. (Keen 2008). *C. tripolinus* is another species found in Spain but the two species can only be separated by reference to the genitalia. Olivares mentions this but says that he has only used the name *alceae* and, for the sake of simplicity I will continue to do the same. At some stage in the future I will have a sample of the local population checked by experts and will publish the results. For the record, I have seen this species locally in November 2006, 2008 and on 11 November 2011, January 2007, February 2007 and 27 February 2012, often in good numbers.

Four species of the Papilionidae are recorded by Olivares and two of these have been shown to fly in the winter. He says that the Swallowtail, *Papilio machaon*, can be found in February but, of course, I have seen it in November 2006 and 2010 as well as in February 2008 and 2011. He records the Scarce Swallowtail, *Iphiclides feisthamelii*, from March to October but I saw one locally in February 2008. To complete this family we will discuss the Spanish Festoon, *Zerynthia ruminia*. Olivares refers to two generations a year, the first of which flies from February to June



while the second appears in September and October. I have seen this butterfly locally during February 2008, 2011 and again in the same month in 2012.

Turning to the Pieridae, Olivares records 17 species from the Sierra Nevada (plus another that is probably present) and, of these, he says that nine can be found flying during the winter. During my very first winter in Spain I saw what looked like a Pale Clouded Yellow but could not get close enough to confirm its identification. From what Olivares says, it would seem that this species does not occur in Spain but the New Clouded Yellow, *Colias alfacariensis*, does. It is suggested that any previous references to *C. hyale* are erroneous so, on that basis, perhaps what I saw on 22 January 2005 on a hillside near the local village of La Mezquitilla was a specimen of *alfacariensis*. Olivares says that it flies from April to October so my record is potentially of interest. It is the only winter record that I have for this species and, if fact, I have only seen a similar specimen once since – in the local countryside on a summer's day a few years ago. I could not get near enough to confirm the identification! Now we come to the Clouded Yellow, *Colias croceus*, which Olivares records from February to October. During the last winter I saw it locally in November 2011, January and February 2012. In previous years I have seen it in all four of the winter months, often in good numbers.

It is interesting for me to see that Olivares records both the Brimstone, *Gonepteryx rhamni* and the Cleopatra, *G. cleopatra*, from all twelve months of the year. Neither of these species can be considered as common in my area but the odd specimen of both species is seen during most years. In the winter months I have only seen the Brimstone and then only during November but not in 2011. We now come to the “*Euchloe*” group, of which Olivares records five species, four of which he says fly in February. The first of these is the Dappled White, *Euchloe crameri*, (now considered to be a full species in its own right) but I have only found this species in the spring and summer. Likewise, he records the Portuguese Dappled White, *E. tagis*, but I have not seen it in February. The third of his February species is the Green-striped White, *E. belemia*, which I did not see during the winter of 2011-12. However, from previous years I have records for November (2006), December (2004 and 2006), January (2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008) and February (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2011). His fourth species is the Morocco Orange-tip, *Anthocharis euphenoides*, but I have only found this species in April (2007 and 2011). However, I am sure that both my records relate to specimens flying from our nearby mountains where I expect this species would be found in February – I must try to check this out, perhaps next year?



Now it is the turn of the other whites, beginning with the Large White, *Pieris brassicae*, which Olivares records from February to October. However, I can add the months of November (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011), December (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011) and January (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012). I have also seen it in every February since 2006 – often in large numbers. The Small White has now reverted to its old scientific name of *Pieris rapae* and is found in the Sierra Nevada from February to November. I can add the months of December and January as I have seen it during these months every year except for December 2011. The Bath White, *Pontia daplidice*, is not recorded in the winter months by Olivares. However, I have seen it, often in good numbers in the months of November (2006, 2007, 2009 and 2010), December (2006, 2007, 2009 and 2010), January (2005, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2012) and February (2007, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2012).

That brings us to the Nymphalidae (including Danaidae, Libytheidae and Satyridae) and of the 43 species (plus two occasional visitors, one probable and two doubtful residents) recorded by Olivares, ten have been observed to fly in the winter months. I will now discuss these in the same order in which they appear in the book. The first is the Large Tortoiseshell, *Nymphalis polychloros*, which is found mainly in the major river valleys that flow through the Sierra Nevada. It is single brooded, emerging in May-July and it is not unusual to see it flying during the winter months - before appearing in numbers in the spring. I have only seen this species locally in the summer. The Small Tortoiseshell, *Aglais urticae*, and the Comma, *Polygonia c-album*, both appear in two generations and individuals can be seen in the winter but these are species that I have not recorded locally – perhaps our area is too dry. The next species is the Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*, which he says flies in all twelve months of the year. Over the years I have seen this species in all four winter months but it is never common – only being seen in ones and twos at best. The Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*, (note the use of the “old” generic name) is much more common locally and is often seen in large numbers. Olivares records it from February to October but I have seen it regularly in all four of the winter months. He also records the Queen of Spain Fritillary, *Issoria lathonia*, from all twelve months of the year, flying in two or three successive generations. I have to say that I have not seen this species in our part of Spain.

The Two-tailed Pasha, *Charaxes jasius*, is considered to be an occasional visitor to the area of the Sierra Nevada and, as such, he does not cover this species in great detail. He does say that it is found along the coast of the Province of Granada and flies into November – which mirrors my own observations in the city of Sevilla. Olivares includes the



Nettle-tree Butterfly, *Libythea celtis*, within the Nymphalidae and says it is found throughout the year but I have not found it locally.

We now come to the “browns”, of which Olivares records 24 species, three of which he says can be found in the winter months. The Speckled Wood, *Pararge aegeria*, he says can be found in November and February. My own local observations show that this species flies in these two months but is not seen every year. I also saw it on the sea front in Marbella on 26 December 2010. Whilst discussing this species, I am pleased to say that the stands of bamboo have started regenerating in that part of our local countryside that was destroyed by the heavy rain and floods of the winter of 2010-11. This species has again been seen in this micro site but I have to say that a large proportion of the bamboo has now been badly affected by the lack of rain during the winter under review. The Wall Brown, *Lasiommata megera*, according to Olivares flies in February which falls into line with my own records. I have also seen it locally in November (2010) January (2007, 2008, 2011) and in Zahara (Cadiz Province) in November 2009. The third of the winter species of Olivares is the Spanish Small Heath, *Coenonympha lyllus*, that was previously treated as a local form of *C. pamphilus* but is now considered to be a distinct species which can be found in the Sierra Nevada from January to September. I have not found it locally during the winter months.

The next family is the Lycaenidae of which 38 species have been recorded within the area of the Sierra Nevada. Of these, four have been recorded in the winter months by Olivares. The first group of the family to be considered is the hairstreaks, one of which appears in the winter – the Provence Hairstreak, *Tomares ballas*, which flies in the local countryside each February. Olivares also confirms that this butterfly is common enough at this time of year in the Sierra Nevada. The second group is the coppers, none of which, according to Olivares can be found in the winter. However, I have records for the Small Copper, *Lycaena phlaeas*, including November (2007, 2009 and 2010), December (2009), January (2007 and 2008) and February (2009 and 2012) from various localities in Sevilla and neighbouring Provinces. The only other “copper” I have recorded is the specimen seen on the sunny afternoon of 26 December 2001 during a holiday with friends in the nearby village of La Mezquitilla. This species resembled the illustration of the Purple Shot Copper, *Lycaena alciphron*, in Diaz (Keen, 2007) but not in other books. Now the illustrations in Olivares are of photos of live specimens in the field and all three of his photos of this species again resemble the specimen I saw in 2001. According to all the books I have, including Olivares, this species is single brooded and flies in the summer – May to July. I can still “see” my specimen and will always be convinced that it was not *L. phlaeas*.



The third group includes the blues with tails – Olivares describes three species, of which he says two can be found in the winter months. He has records for the Long-tailed Blue, *Lampides boeticus*, for every month from February to November in succeeding generations. This falls into line with my own observations but I also have records for December (2006, 2007 and 2009) but I have never seen it in the month of February. Next we have the Geranium Bronze, *Cacyreus marshalli*, a pest of pelargoniums and geraniums which was introduced from South Africa some years ago. Olivares includes records for November which mirrors my own observations. Unlike Olivares, I have winter records for the third species – Lang's Short-tailed Blue, *Leptodes pirithous*, which I have seen in November (2006, 2007, 2009, 2010 and 2011), December (2007 and 2009), January (2007) and February (2011) often in good numbers.

As a fourth group, I will now consider the “blues”, of which Olivares has records for 21 species from the Sierra Nevada – but only one from the winter months. His winter species is the Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus/celina*, which he says flies in February. Before proceeding, I must comment on the scientific name. Following recent genetic investigations, it would seem that whilst *P. icarus* (Rottemburg, 1775) is found in Iberia, *P. celina* (Astaute) has started colonising southern areas of Spain and Portugal from North Africa. Apparently the genetics of the two species are very different but otherwise it is almost impossible to separate the two. Olivares has, therefore, bracketed the two together and I suppose that this is the correct way to deal with this problem – the mind boggles at the prospect of how many other “new” species will turn up once the use of genetics becomes more widespread! Anyway, Olivares has records for February to October but I can add November (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010), December (2006 and 2009,) and January (2007) as well as further observations for February in most of the last seven years.

I have also seen two other blues in November (Keen, 2011) but Olivares does not consider either of them to be winter species. Escher's Blue, *Polyommatus escheri*, is found in the Sierra Nevada but Olivares only records it in June, July and August. He confirms that in the south of Spain it is only found in mountainous regions and as our village is situated in the area known as the Sierra Sur de Sevilla (southern mountains of Seville) my summer records would not appear to be unexpected. I have seen the butterfly flying in reasonable numbers locally as late as October together with the one sighting on 27 November 2006 in our local countryside so perhaps there is a second generation here in some years. I did not see it in October 2011 but that was to be expected as due to the hot dry weather there were hardly any wild flowers in the local countryside. The other species is the False Blatton Blue, *Pseudophilotes*



abencerragus, which is also found in the Sierra Nevada, as subspecies *amaliae* Hemming, 1927 – but only in April and May. Olivares also mentions the distinctive flight – in “nervous” zig-zags close to the ground – exactly as “my” specimens were seen in Estepona on 2 November 2010. Without a voucher specimen there is no way that I can confirm the identification.

To complete the Lycaenidae and this review, we must now consider the “Argus” group. Olivares only includes records for three species of *Aricia* from the Sierra Nevada and says that none of them fly in the four winter months. In a previous article (Keen, 2008) I discussed the specimens that I found locally in November 2006 and 2007 and concluded that they were examples of *Aricia allous montenensis*. Unfortunately, the subspecific name was misspelt – MY error, please don’t blame the printer! It should read *montensis* but as I also said at the time, there is much confusion with regards to the specific and subspecific names for members of this genus. Olivares, using the most recent revisions, treats *artaxerxes* as a true species and *montensis* Verity as a subspecies which he says is found in the Sierra Nevada. He does not mention *allous* Geyer at all so, at this time it would seem that my specimens belong to *Aricia artaxerxes montensis*, although I fear that there is still much work to be done on this group. Whatever, I have seen more examples in February 2012 which seems to confirm that an *Aricia* is found in the winter in this part of Spain.

Overall I feel that the flight periods included in the new book by Olivares more closely mirror my observations than any previous publication. Clearly there is still a lot of work to be done down here in the south of Spain and I hope to be able to continue to record my sightings well into the future.

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Gypsy Moth *Lymantria dispar* (Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae)

by Wesley Caswell (3193)

As many people know, the Gypsy Moth lays its ova in early summer and these overwinter, hatching around April of the following year. Last year, 2011, I had some ova which decided to hatch in mid-October.

As this species feeds on things like oak, willow, hawthorn etc, this didn't seem like a good idea. However, as it was a very mild autumn I decided to keep a small number of them and see how far they would go.

By getting the 'very last' leaves off various bushes etc most of them just made it to pupation, including one fully grown one on Christmas day – again, on the very last bits of rather old leaves.

I am wondering whether they will emerge at the normal time, or not until autumn.



Spider Sue – R.I.P.

by Wesley Caswell (3133)

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of 'Spider Sue'.

Some older members may remember that I wrote various articles about her, including 'The Story of Spider Sue' published in a 1995 edition of the *AES Bulletin* – Vol 54, No. 402, Page 209.

In case you don't go back that far... one of the main points was that Spider Sue was famous one day in 1987, as she was mentioned at around 4.45 pm on Adrian Love's programme on BBC Radio 2. It won me a Radio 2 Tea Cosy, which I still have to this day.

Anyway, at the beginning of June 2012, she had not moved much for two or three weeks, and on the 8th June she crawled for the last time under a big rock in her cage and died in the evening, at the great age of 33 years. She had spent almost her entire 33 years sitting on top of a piano – and would sometimes frighten 'new' visitors when she suddenly moved. Now, sadly, there is a big empty space where her cage used to be!

Spider Sue... gone – but not forgotten.

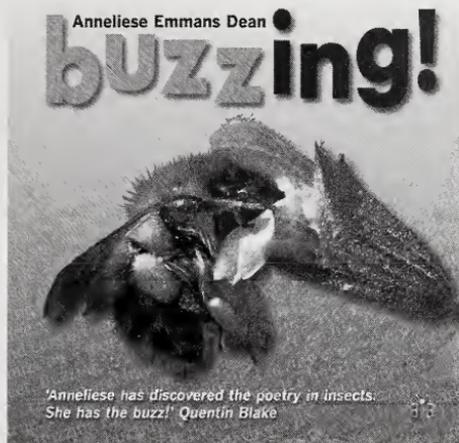
P.S. Spider Sue was a Guatemalan Tarantula.



Book Review

buzzing!

By Anneliese Emmans Dean, 2012. Brambleby Books, Luton. Hard back, 160 pp in full colour. ISBN 978-1-908241-07-8. RRP £14.99.



Brambleby Books are clearly on a mission to convert all children to entomologists, and they have taken another triumphal stride towards their goal with this excellent insect poetry book. The book measures approximately 7" x 7" (ideal for small hands) and contains eight sections, each containing eight illustrated poems on different invertebrates (thus, 64 poems in all) which are 'buzzing busy, buzzing a go-go, buzzing beautiful, buzzing hungry,

buzzing creepy, buzzing nifty, buzzing green and buzzing dotty' – you can imagine what some of these sections will contain. Although some of the poems are about non-insect invertebrates, most feature insects.

Each section begins with its own colourful contents list with a difference: tantalisingly, a pet name is used for each invertebrate, along with a colour coded collage of images of the species covered in that section; their identities are only fully explained on the page on which the actual poem appears. Each poem is on the left hand page of a double page spread, with a photograph (taken by the author) and factual information on the facing page.

The poems rhyme but vary in style: for example, there is a limerick to a Green Shield Bug called Jean, 'A Seasonal Fashionista' – referring to the fact that 'Jean' changes colour and hibernates in winter. The factual information provided for each species includes the scientific name and a 'Bug Box' containing a description, the relevant taxonomic classification and phenology information; in addition, there is a 'Factabulous' box that contains interesting key facts about it.

The book thus interweaves information in both verse and factual form, which will undoubtedly help youngsters to understand the taxonomic position of each invertebrate and to take in key information in a



memorable way. However, the book would equally serve as a coffee table or bedside companion for more mature entomologists. Here is the first of three verses of the poem about 'Marilyn', the Painted Lady Butterfly, subtitled 'Some like it hot':

I'm a Painted Lady
I don't like it shady
I have to feel heat on my wings
My life was begun
Under African sun
Where daily the muezzin sings.

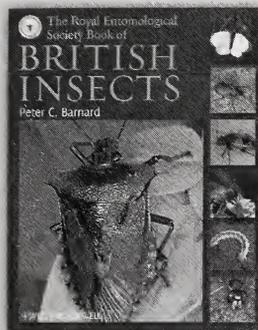
With Christmas fast approaching, this could be a great gift for a young, or young at heart, entomologist. With this in mind, the AES has copies of the book available at less than half price (£8 including postage) to the first three purchasers – cheques to be sent to: buzzing! offer, PO Box 8774, London SW7 5ZG.

Dafydd Lewis



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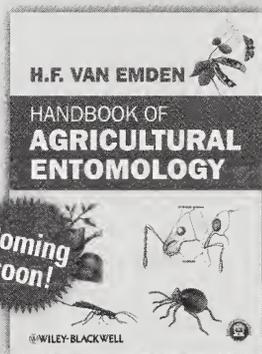
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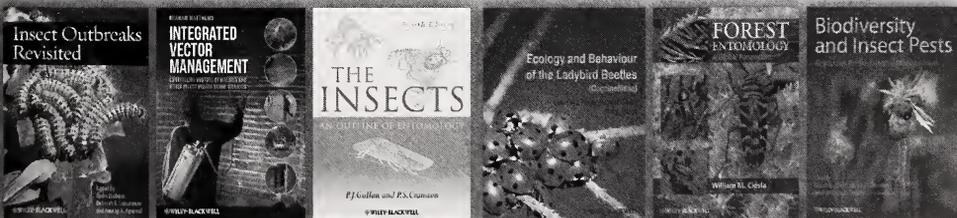


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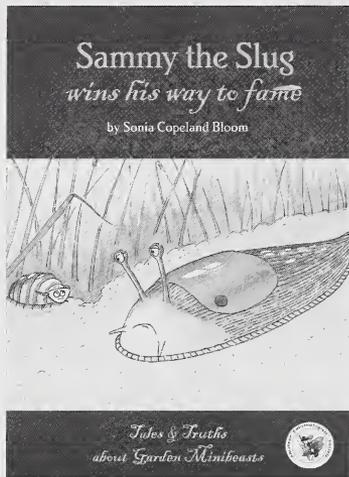


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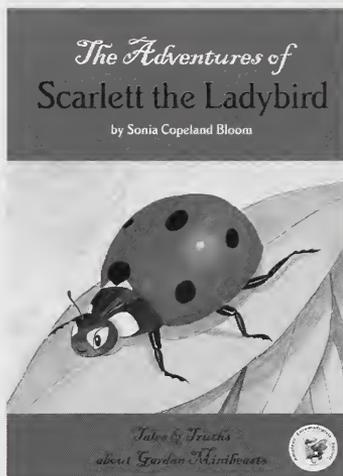
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New books by Sonia Copeland Bloom



Sammy the Slug was feeling acutely miserable about being a slug. With his slimy coat and appetite for petunia plants, he suspected he was the least popular of all the small animals in the Hornby family's garden. Then kind-hearted Woody, the woodlouse, offered to be his friend and find a way to cheer him up. Discovering that Hugo Hornby was putting on a Slug 'n' Snail race, he persuaded Sammy to take part. Sammy's willingness to help himself led to his life changing in the most spectacular way.

Scarlett the Ladybird was determined to enjoy life to the full, now that the sunshine was heralding summer, and the Hornby family's garden, where she lived, had burst into life with spring flowers, plants and newly emerging wildlife. Little Lizzie Hornby, feeling dejected as her brothers didn't want to play with her, was looking for a friend. In quite an extraordinary way, Scarlett and Lizzie become firm friends and learn a lot about each other's way of life, while experiencing enough exciting adventures to last them a lifetime. In the end, they realise the comfort of family and friends is what really counts.



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