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Many thanks to everyone who has made it possible to get a second issue of the newsletter out this year. I am very pleased that the variety and quality of contributions continues to grow and that we are receiving notes from new members. This issue contains records of some of our most impressive yet very rarely encountered species as well as reports of a species increasing its range and a recent addition to our fauna. The two regional accounts highlight perhaps one of our best recorded and one of the least worked areas. Please note the request for records for mapping on the last page and please continue to send any contributions to me at the address above.

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WILTSHIRE SAWFLIES

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Further to Laurence Clemons's article on Kent Sawflies in Newsletter 2, I thought it would be of interest to see how the Wiltshire records compared.

The Wiltshire sawfly database contains about 3400 records of 283 species involving around 430 sites. Most of these records have been accumulated during the last 15 years but there are some records from the early part of the 20th century taken from the Marlborough College archives. Sir Christopher Andrewes worked in Wiltshire for about 30 years after the Second World War in which period he recorded about 200 species and there have been occasional surveys on Salisbury Plain and other sites over the years. The geography of Kent, and thus the range of available sawfly habitats, is more diverse than that of Wiltshire which has no coast or estuaries. This probably accounts for the larger number of species in Kent.

For those who are not familiar with Wiltshire the dominant habitat is chalk downland, especially in the central and southern parts. The Hampshire Avon and its tributaries form a network in the southern half with the city of Salisbury at its heart. In the north is the large conurbation of Swindon, the Braydon Forest area formed over Oxford clay and the Cotswold Water Park. The west and east of the county contain substantial ancient woodlands with a scattering of small towns and villages throughout.

Wiltshire is quite a large county, roughly 80 km from north to south and about 50 km from east to west. It has 30 complete or almost complete 10 km squares and about 20 partial 10 km squares, thus around 50 references in total. The following table shows the 16 commonest species of sawflies, all with 50 or more records. The number of records, sites and 10 km squares for each species is shown. As in Kent there are only two species with more than 100 records. The species listed below are very similar to those on the Kent list.

1. <i>Athalia cordata</i> Lepeletier	126 records, 74 sites, 28 10km squares
2. <i>Tenthredo mesomela</i> Linnaeus	102 records, 74 sites, 28 10km squares
3. <i>Selandria serva</i> (Fabricius)	61 records, 55 sites, 23 10km squares
4. <i>Dolerus picipes</i> (Klug)	82 records, 52 sites, 24 10km squares
5. <i>Dolerus nigratus</i> (Müller)	98 records, 52 sites, 21 10km squares
6. <i>Tenthredopsis nassata</i> (Linnaeus)	66 records, 48 sites, 25 10km squares
7. <i>Athalia circularis</i> (Klug)	72 records, 43 sites, 23 10km squares
8. <i>Tenthredo brevicornis</i> (Konow)	59 records, 42 sites, 24 10km squares
9. <i>Cephus spinipes</i> (Panzer)	52 records, 39 sites, 24 10km squares
10. <i>Aglaostigma fulvipes</i> (Scopoli)	53 records, 36 sites, 24 10km squares
11. <i>Pachyprotasis rapae</i> (Linnaeus)	53 records, 35 sites, 22 10km squares
12. <i>Tenthredo arcuata</i> Förster	50 records, 37 sites, 20 10km squares
13. <i>Aglaostigma aucupariae</i> (Klug)	56 records, 35 sites, 20 10km squares
14. <i>Pachynematus clitellatus</i> (Lepeletier)	56 records, 33 sites, 20 10km squares
15. <i>Dolerus aeneus</i> Hartig	62 records, 29 sites, 15 10km squares
16. <i>Nematus lucidus</i> (Panzer)	66 records, 24 sites, 10 10km squares

I agree with Laurence that more visits result in more species. The recording method is also crucial and I have found that Malaise traps are the most efficient sampling method often producing species not found by other means. Supplementary searches using other methods provides a more comprehensive result. The best site I have found so far is Mallard Lake in the north of the county where I ran three Malaise traps in spring 2006. This resulted in 99 species over an eight week period. The 100th species was recorded there this year.

Having identified the commonest species it may be worth examining those species with the fewest records. The list below is of 96 species which have only been recorded in either one or two sites in Wiltshire. The inclusion of a species here could mean that its respective habitat has not been searched thoroughly but many Wiltshire sites have been surveyed intensively and I believe this list must include the scarcest species. The number 1 or 2 indicates how many sites each species has been recorded from and the year is the last recorded date.

<i>Abia candens</i> Konow	2 – 2005	<i>Nematus poecilnotus</i> Zaddach	2 – 1980
<i>Amauronematus histrio</i> (Serville)	1 – 1968	<i>Nematus salicis</i> (Linnaeus)	1 – 1962
<i>Amauronematus humeralis</i> (Serville)	1 – 1968	<i>Nematus spiraea</i> Zaddach	1 – 1994
<i>Amauronematus lateralis</i> Konow	1 – 2005	<i>Nematus tibialis</i> Newman	2 – 2004
<i>Amauronematus longiserra</i> (Thomson)	1 – 1977	<i>Nematus umbratus</i> Thomson	1 – 1970
<i>Amauronematus miltonotus</i> (Zaddach)	1 – 2006	<i>Nematus viridis</i> Stephens	1 – 1976
<i>Amauronematus krausi</i> Taeger & Blank	1 – 2001	<i>Nematus viridissimus</i> Möller	1 – 2003
<i>Ametastegia albipes</i> (Thomson)	1 – 1963	<i>Pachynematus albipennis</i> (Hartig)	1 – 2000
<i>Ametastegia pallipes</i> (Spinola)	1 – 1997	<i>Pachynematus calcicola</i> Benson	2 – 2004
<i>Aprosthemata fuscicornis</i> (Thomson)	1 – 2005	<i>Pachynematus fallax</i> (Serville)	2 – 2006
<i>Ardis bipunctata</i> (Klug)	1 – 1970	<i>Pachynematus lichwardti</i> Konow	1 – 1971
<i>Arge enodis</i> (Linnaeus)	1 – 1970	<i>Pachynematus moerens</i> (Foerster)	1 – 1962
<i>Arge fuscipes</i> (Fallén)	2 – 2002	<i>Pachynematus vagus</i> (Fabricius)	2 – 1999
<i>Arge nigripes</i> (Retzius in Degeer)	1 – 2002	<i>Pachyprotasis variegata</i> (Fallén)	2 – 2004
<i>Arge ochropa</i> (Gmelin in Linnaeus)	2 – 1967	<i>Pamphilus fumipennis</i> (Curtis)	2 – 2004
<i>Brachycoluma leucolenus</i> (Zaddach)	1 – 1968	<i>Pamphilus hortorum</i> (Klug)	1 – 1963
<i>Brachythops flavens</i> (Klug)	1 – 1976	<i>Paracharactus gracilicornis</i> (Zaddach)	1 – 1970
<i>Brachythops wuestnii</i> (Konow)	1 – 1976	<i>Parna tenella</i> (Klug)	1 – 2005
<i>Caliroa varipes</i> (Klug)	1 – 1968	<i>Periclista pubescens</i> (Zaddach)	1 – 2004
<i>Cytisogaster genistae</i> (Benson)	2 – 2004	<i>Perineura rubi</i> (Panzer)	1 – 2005
<i>Dolerus anthracinus</i> (Klug)	1 – 2002	<i>Phyllocolpa coriacea</i> (Benson)	1 – 2002
<i>Dolerus bimaculatus</i> (Geoffey in Fourcroy)	1 – 2000	<i>Phyllocolpa leucapsis</i> (Tischbein)	1 – 1963
<i>Empria immersa</i> (Klug)	2 – 2004	<i>Phyllocolpa oblita</i> (Serville)	1 – 2001
<i>Eutomostethus gagathinus</i> (Klug)	2 – 2004	<i>Phyllocolpa purpurea</i> (Cameron)	1 – 2003
<i>Gilpinia hercyniae</i> (Hartig)	1 – 1964	<i>Phyllocolpa tuberculata</i> (Benson)	1 – 1971
<i>Hartigia nigra</i> (Harris)	1 – 2001	<i>Platycampus luridiventris</i> (Fallén)	2 – 2006
<i>Heptamelus ochroleucus</i> (Stephens)	1 – 2004	<i>Pontania pedunculi</i> (Hartig)	2 – 1977
<i>Heterarthrus ochropodus</i> (Klug)	1 – 1971	<i>Pontania triandrae</i> Benson	2 – 2005
<i>Heterarthrus vagans</i> (Fallén)	2 – 2005	<i>Pristiphora abietina</i> (Christ)	1 – 1971
<i>Hoplocampa alpina</i> (Zetterstedt)	1 – 1964	<i>Pristiphora aphantoneura</i> (Foerster)	2 – 2004
<i>Hoplocampa ariae</i> Benson	1 – 1977	<i>Pristiphora confusa</i> Lindqvist	1 – 2004
<i>Hoplocampa chrysorrhoea</i> (Klug)	1 – 1972	<i>Pristiphora laticis</i> (Hartig)	2 – 1969
<i>Hoplocampa testudinea</i> (Klug)	2 – 2004	<i>Pristiphora melanocarpa</i> (Hartig)	2 – 2004
<i>Larinematus imperfectus</i> (Zaddach)	1 – 1964	<i>Pristiphora ruficornis</i> (Olivier)	2 – 1925
<i>Macrophya albipuncta</i> (Fallén)	2 – 2003	<i>Pristiphora rufipes</i> Serville	1 – 1994
- (Found on Meadow Cranesbill)		<i>Pristiphora subopaca</i> Lindqvist	1 – 2004
<i>Macrophya blanda</i> (Fabricius)	1 – 1980	<i>Pseudodineura fuscula</i> (Klug)	1 – 2003
<i>Macrophya montana</i> (Scopoli)	1 – 1980	<i>Rhadinoceraea micans</i> (Klug)	2 – 2004
<i>Metallus albipes</i> (Cameron)	2 – 1925	<i>Sciapteryx soror</i> Konow	2 – 2002
<i>Metallus lanceolatus</i> (Thomson)	1 – 2005	<i>Scolioneura betuleti</i> (Klug)	1 – 1968
<i>Metallus pumilus</i> (Klug)	1 – 1971	<i>Sharliphora nigella</i> (Foerster)	1 – 1958
<i>Nematinus fuscipennis</i> (Lepeletier)	1 – 2006	<i>Sirex juvenis</i> (Linnaeus)	2 – 2003
<i>Nematus flavescens</i> Stephens	1 – 1971	<i>Sterictiphora geminata</i> (Gmelin in Linnaeus)	1 – 2006
<i>Nematus hypoxanthus</i> Foerster	1 – 1976	<i>Tenthredo balteata</i> Klug	1 – 1963
<i>Nematus incompletus</i> Foerster	1 – 1977	<i>Tenthredo zona</i> Klug	2 – 2002
<i>Nematus melanaspis</i> Hartig	2 – 2003	<i>Trachelus tabidus</i> (Fabricius)	2 – 1946
<i>Nematus miliaris</i> (Panzer)	1 – 2002	<i>Trachelus troglodyta</i> (Fabricius)	1 – 1925
<i>Nematus nigricornis</i> Serville	1 – 2002	<i>Trichiocampus grandis</i> (Lepeletier)	1 – 2004
<i>Nematus olfaciens</i> Benson	1 – 2006		

There are probably a variety of reasons for the poor showing of these species. Observer coverage is very sparse in Wiltshire and large swathes of the county have never been surveyed. On the plus side some quite intensive sawfly surveys have been carried out on Salisbury Plain and in the north of the county providing ample opportunities for these species to be found. There are also a further 200+ British species which have not been recorded in Wiltshire.

Whatever the shortcomings of this list I still think it would be interesting to see whether the same species show up on other county listings. It will probably be a long time, if ever, before we know the true status of all the sawfly species in Britain but we can start to get a feel for the scarcer ones in this way.

EMPRIA CANDIDATA (Fallén)

K. John Grearson

On 25 May 2007 I beat two unfamiliar larvae from *Betula* while surveying for sawflies at a sandy heathland site in West Sussex called Iping and Stedham Commons. Using Lorenz & Kraus (1957) it was relatively easy to arrive at the conclusion that these larvae were *Empria candidata* (Fallén). The L & K description and illustrations were a perfect match to the larva as illustrated here. One of



Empria candidata larva
Photograph: K.J. Grearson

the larvae failed to feed and died soon after but the other fed on and by 4 July when it was 14mm long left the leaves. At this stage it was placed in a jar of earth in a sheltered place outside with a cover of nylon netting. Fingers crossed, it will emerge next year and confirm the identification.

This species was new to me and there are no records of it in Wiltshire so I have asked several contacts if they have encountered it. The following records are held by Andrew Liston, Andrew Halstead and David Sheppard.

Beechraigs Country Park, near Linlithgow, West Lothian 23.v.1978, abundant adults. Birch scrub on a cleared windblow site.

Lopham Fen, Suffolk 12.v.1979. Mainly a wet fen.

Wisley Common, Surrey 2.v.1990, 15.iv.1993. Heather heathland with birch scrub.

Horsell Common, Woking, Surrey 23.iv.1995, 23.iv.2005. Habitat as Wisley Common.

Whitmoor Common, Guildford, Surrey 20.iv.1997. Habitat as Wisley Common.

Chobham Common, Surrey 24.iv.1999. Habitat as Wisley Common.

Brentmoor Heath, Surrey 18.iv.1999. Habitat as Wisley Common.

Nower Wood, Surrey 8.v.2005. Deciduous woodland on clay with one area of sandy soil.

Andrew Liston has commented that *E. candidata* does not seem to be widespread in Germany either. His only captures there were at Brandenburg in a bog with stunted birches. Laurence Clemons has been unable to find any records for Kent and Guy Knight has also drawn a blank in the collections of the National Museums Liverpool. Benson (1952) reported the species as local and scarce throughout Britain and Ireland, not recorded from Ireland.

SCARCE DOLERUS IN WILTSHIRE

K. John Grearson

The following Wiltshire records post-date some of those included in David Sheppard's article in Newsletter 2.

SCARCE

Dolerus eversmanni

A male, Dance Common SU099928, 2 May 2002. K.J.Grearson (KJG) / determined by A.J.Halstead (AJH).

D. madidus

A male, Seven Fields LNR, Swindon SU145880, 30 March 2001. KJG/AJH.

A male, Harries Ground, Rodbourne ST933823, 29 March 2002. KJG/AJH.

A male, Mallard Lake, Cotswold Water Park SU013937, 7 May 2006. KJG/KJG.

D. planatus

A male, Rivermead, Swindon SU126853, 7 May 2001. KJG/AJH.

Two males Pike Corner SSSI, Cotswold Water Park SU037934, 24 April 2002. KJG/AJH.

Two Males Cloatley Meadows ST983908, 21 May 2003. KJG/KJG.

A male, Jones's Mill NR, Pewsey SU165616, 30 May 2004. Dipt. Forum/AJH.

D. possilensis

A female, Blakehill Farm East SU080917, 14 May 2001. KJG/AJH.

A female, North Meadow NNR SU092946, 8 May 2001. KJG/AJH.

A female North Meadow NNR, 31 May 2004. Dipt. Forum/AJH.

A female Swillbrook Lane SU018934, 3 June 2004. Dipt. Forum/AJH.

A female Everleigh Ashes, Salisbury Plain SU1956. Dipt. Forum/AJH.

RARE

D. anthracinus

Ladywell Barn, Salisbury Plain ST9248, 26 April 2002. Adam Wright/AW.

D. bimaculatus

A male, Jones's Mill NR, Pewsey SU165616, 7 June 2000. KJG/AJH.

D. megapterus (Now *D. stygius*)

A male, Jones's Mill, Pewsey, 7 June 2000. KJG/AJH.

A male, North Meadow NNR, 12 June 2001. KJG/AJH.

A female, Upper Waterhay SSSI, Cotswold Water Park, SU068937, 8 June 2005. KJG/KJG.

TURNIP SAWFLY *ATHALIA ROSAE* (L.)

K. John Grearson

In Wiltshire there have been about 40 records of this species from 30 different sites. They usually turn up, often in quite good numbers, in mid-summer when the wild angelica and other umbellifers are flowering. This is one of those unusual sawflies which can be identified safely without the need to kill specimens, the red on the thorax offering a unique field character. Most of the Wiltshire sites are on the damp side although the species is sometimes found on wild carrot in drier sites.

Prior to this year most of the records have been between mid-June and early September but this year, on 28 April I found good numbers (50+) present on bugle flowers at the Upper Waterhay nature reserve in North Wilts. On closer examination the sawflies were chewing into the unopened flowers rather than taking pollen from opened ones. Under the microscope further examination of the damaged flower buds revealed a random sprinkling of small round eggs. I kept a few flowers for a while to see whether any of these eggs would develop further but with no success. It is not clear whether the eggs were the target of the sawflies or other parts of the flowers. Viitasaari (2002) referred to *Tenthredo* adults attacking flower petals and then stamens and pistil, sometimes making incisions near the base of flowers etc.

I also took a female *A. rosae* at Cloatley Farm, Wilts. on 16 June, saw several on Flat Holm Island, off Cardiff on 17 May. In West Sussex I found two at Iping Common on 25 May and one at Wephurst Wood on 26 May.

The population on Flat Holm, which will interest Guy because it is just in Wales, is linked to the population of the wild turnip there. This plant sometimes turns the surface of the island yellow and the sawfly is very common there.

REFERENCE

Viitasaari, M. 2002: The suborder Symphyta of the Hymenoptera P.34. In: Viitasaari, M. (ed.): Sawflies (Hymenoptera, Symphyta) 1. A review of the suborder, the Western Palearctic taxa of Xyeloidea and Pamphiloidea. - Helsinki, Tremex Press.

XIPHYDRIA LONGICOLLIS (GEOFFROY), HARDWICK WOOD, CAMBRIDGESHIRE (VC29)

Louise Bacon

On October 6th 2007, Vince Lea, my fellow co-warden of this Wildlife Trust woodland, found a large female sawfly on a heartwood oak branch, whilst collecting kindling for our volunteer work-party kettle, and collected it for me to see on site. Despite limited Symphyta experience, I realized it was a *Xiphydria* and decided to take it home for examination.

The insect was about 15mm long, black with cream markings. Using the AIDGAP keys and Benson (1952) I was able to confirm my decision on *Xiphydria*, but neither species appeared correct due to lack of red colouration. The passing mention to a third species, *longicollis*, was made in the AIDGAP key, but I initially discounted this, as how likely was it that a novice on her 10th sawfly ID had found something so extremely rare, and was my excitement over whether England really could beat the Wallabies getting the better of me? Email enquiries and digital photographs ensued, and following discussions with Guy Knight, he tentatively accepted the

identification as *X. longicollis*, based on digital photography until the specimen arrived in the post after a month delay due to the postal strike



THE SITE

Hardwick Wood TL353575 is a SSSI listed in the Ancient Woodland inventory. It is only 15Ha, of which half is very old secondary woodland (of 150-300 years standing), and the rest is true ancient woodland. It is an Ash-Maple-Hazel woodland on Boulder-clay, and has documented evidence back to 1215. There has been oak (*Quercus robur*) planting in the wood, in 1838, of a density too high for healthy growth, so many have dead limbs, etc. Other standards are also present; Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Although part of the wood is managed on a coppice cycle for the flora, much of the ancient half of the woodland is not managed, and consequently has a significant amount of dead wood present, as limbs, standing trees and on the ground.

Xiphydria longicollis
Photograph: Louise Bacon

We have been starting to record the invertebrates present, especially those species which utilize dead wood and rot-holes, as this aspect of the woodland has been little studied in its thirty-year

history as a Wildlife Trust reserve. Consequently, we now know that we have a significant saproxylic beetle fauna, including several RDB species, and also a colleague has recorded several Hoverflies (Diptera: Syrphidae) which are scarce and depend on rot holes and dead wood.

The wood contains a couple of glades adjacent to ponds, and one of these was the precise location where the *Xiphydria* was found.

The insect was observed ovipositing in a deep crack in an oak branch on a log pile. This branch was one of the typical bark-less heartwood branches one sees jutting from the sides of middle-aged or older oaks. This particular log pile was at the bottom of 2-years cut coppice growth, but on top was the Oak heartwood branch and a couple of other Oak branches from one of two trees which had been dead for many years (at least 10) but had remained standing on the edge of this glade until late summer 2006, when one fell and the other became dangerous. The hazardous parts were segmented and piled on various log-piles around the glade. This was the observed location of the female *Xiphydria longicollis*.

Many similar heartwood branches at canopy height and also fallen, and also standing dead trees are present through the wood, so the presence of further individuals is likely.

I also wonder whether it is often a canopy species if that is where sunny dead wood is, and this could be another factor in why it is rarely seen. It is obviously not a common insect, but is it also difficult to find?

This constitutes one of only a handful of UK records since first being documented in 1984 from Windsor Great Park. [6th UK record after - Windsor Great Park: Shaw & Liston *Ent. Gaz.* (1985) 36:233-235; Wisley: Halstead *Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* (1992) 5:23; Harpenden: Malumphy *Ent. Gaz.*(1993) 44:10; Monks Wood: Eversham & Arnold *Ann. Rep. Hunts. Flora & Fauna Soc.* (1994) 46: 36-37; Maidenhead: Vercourt *Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* (1996) 9:166 -GTK]

SHETLAND SAWFLIES: PROVISIONAL INFORMATION AND APPEAL FOR HELP

Andrew Liston

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For many years, at least since records of 33 species of Symphyta found in Orkney were published (Liston 1983, Sheppard 1986), I have been aware of the lack of data available for Shetland. The Shetland 'Insect Checklists' compiled by Kevin Osborn and Mike Pennington (<http://www.nature-shetland.co.uk/entomology/index.htm>) mention only two species: *Nematus ribesii* and *Urocerus gigas*. The only previously published records of named species which have so far been located refer to '*Allantus nothus* (Klug)' (Cameron 1878) and *Dolerus aeneus* Hartig (Benson 1939). For different reasons, both of these require confirmation. Cameron's concept of *Allantus nothus* includes what we now recognize in the British Isles as a complex of four different species (the *Tenthredo arcuata* species group), three of which might possibly occur in Shetland. According to Cameron (1878), the specimen(s) were collected by O. M. Reuter, the distinguished Finnish hemipterist. Date of collection must have been during Reuter's stay in Shetland from 6th-14th July 1876 (Reuter 1878). Present location of the material is unknown. Benson (1939) states for *Dolerus aeneus* that this is 'recorded from the Orkneys, Shetlands and Hebrides [Cameron, 1882 (i), p. 183, as '*Dolerus elongatus* C G . Thomson '].' However, neither on this page nor elsewhere in Cameron (1882) is a specific mention of Shetland for a *Dolerus* species to be found. Page 183 contains only the information: 'Common in Scotland, extending to the extreme north [but does he mean the Scottish mainland, or Shetland?]' and to the Hebrides, and occurring at an elevation of 3000 feet and upwards on mountains.' No material of a *Dolerus* species from Shetland has yet been located in collections, although vague reports of sightings (M. Pennington, personal communication; Shetland Entomological Group Newsletter 1995, p. 12) of a 'rather dull, black, medium-sized sawfly' in May and June seem very likely to refer to one or more of the species in this genus. Apart from these records, Ratter (1995: with accompanying sketch of the specimen) found an unidentified female nematine on Foula. The illustration suggests that this may be *Pachynematus clitellatus*.

It was therefore with some hope of finding something 'new' that I visited Shetland with my son Max from 18th-22nd August 2007. This was of course rather late for most adult sawflies, and not very surprisingly, none was found. However, searching potential hostplants did in the end yield early stages of two species: larvae of *Nematus melanocephalus* on planted *Salix ? phyllicifolia* at Lerwick, and a few galls (Fig. 1) of *Pontania collectanea* on *Salix repens* on the coast of West Burra (Fig. 2). There seems little point in listing all the fruitless searches of other plant species and localities which we undertook, except to mention my particular disappointment at our not being able to find any *Pontania* galls on the patches of *Salix herbacea* growing on the summit of Ronas Hill (450 m, the highest point in Shetland).



Fig. 1: galls of *Pontania collectanea* on *Salix repens*, West Burra, 22.08.2007. Diameter of larger gall approx. 8mm
Image: Max Wimmer

Thanks largely to Paul Harvey (Shetland Biological Records Centre, Lerwick), I have now made contact with several Shetland entomologists, and Nick Riddifield on Fair Isle (midway between Orkney and Shetland, but administratively and biogeographically part of the latter). These enthusiasts have already been able to provide some valuable additional information. It has been agreed that they will attempt to obtain further specimens of sawflies during 2008. At present, it seems that at least 8 species of Tenthredinidae occur (or occurred) in Shetland (but the exact identities of some of these remain at present unknown), together with the introduced woodwasp *Urocerus gigas*, which is not thought to be established.



Fig. 2: site of collection of *P. collectanea* galls (marked with red O)
Image: Max Wimmer

In view of the extreme scarcity of available material, I appeal to anyone who knows of the existence of even single sawfly specimens from Shetland, to tell me. Should published references to sawflies

from Shetland have been overlooked, I would also be grateful for this information. Or, if you are looking for an unusual challenge, why not go up there to try and find more? May-June should be the best period for collecting adults. If looking for sawflies seems to be an insufficient reason for visiting Shetland, then the 'Insect Checklists' (see link to website, above) indicate several other groups which are in need of closer study. The website also contains the procedure for submitting records (under 'Recording Insects'). It is intended to prepare a first detailed report on the sawfly fauna of the archipelago towards the end of 2008.

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A NOTE ON THE BRITISH SPECIES OF *CIMBEX* AND A REQUEST FOR RECORDS

Mark Boddington
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Following a half-century hiatus to 1997, we have recent records of *Cimbex connatus* (Schrank) from more than ten counties in southern through eastern England, reaching as far north as the Humber. Over much of this area, *C. connatus* is now comfortably the most frequently encountered member of the genus, followed by *C. femoratus* (L.) and *C. luteus* (L.), the latter species in particular being infrequently seen. I am grateful to Ian Barton and Kathleen Rosewarne for the chance to study *C. luteus* after they passed on a female (now in the Natural History Museum collection) that they found on a Cambridgeshire *Salix* trunk in July 2007 [see note below]. The pictured larva is one this female's offspring.



Full-grown larvae of (left to right) *C. femoratus* (Yorkshire), *C. connatus* (Cambridgeshire) and *C. luteus* (Cambridgeshire), September 2007. Scale bar: 10mm. Photograph: M. C. Boddington

Although we now have a better idea these species' status, under-recording still clouds the picture and any records of *C. connatus* or *C. luteus* would be gratefully received for inclusion in the forthcoming publications on their status and biology, either directly or via Guy Knight, with whom all records are being shared.

CIMBEX LUTEUS (L.)

Ian Barton

While looking for lunar hornet clearwing moths a hornet like insect was noted at the base of a willow [Cambridgeshire, TL527 725, 8.vii.2007]. We potted it up when we realised it was not something we knew.

At home we decided it was a sawfly and used the aidgap guide to pin it down to one of the *Cimbex* species. We put out an email on Cammoths and luckily for us Mark Boddington responded.



Cimbex luteus adult female
Photograph: Ian Barton

He thought it may be a female *Cimbex luteus* and advised we gave it watered honey and tried to see if it would lay eggs if provided with willow.

Seven eggs were laid into cut willow and 15 into leaves of a small white/crack willow we have in our garden. Only one of these survived through to pupation on September 25th. It would appear that the tree we have was not totally right for the larva's needs. Once it was fed on leaves from the tree where the wild larvae were found it did well.



Cimbex luteus prepupal larva
Photograph: Ian Barton

On August 12th we decided to check out willows near to where the female was found. Four larvae were found on one tree around 1km north. Another was found on the same tree on September 2nd. This was taken and pupated on September 16th.

BRITISH *PHYLLOCOLPA* SPECIES

Andrew Liston

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An interesting paper dealing with European leaf-folding sawflies similar to *Phyllocolpa leucosticta* (Hartig) has recently appeared:

Kopelke, J.-P. (2007): The European species of the genus *Phyllocolpa*, part I: the *leucosticta*-group (Insecta, Hymenoptera, Tenthredinidae, Nematinae). - *Senckenbergiana biologica* 87(1): 75-109.

One of the author's main conclusions is that most *Phyllocolpa* species are monophagous on single species of willow, as is generally also the case in the related genera *Pontania* and *Eupontania*.

Unfortunately, it is not at present entirely clear which of the sawfly species included in this revision occur in the British Isles. Certainly *P. ischnocera* (Thomson, 1863) should be added to the list of British species, because *Nematus leucostigmus* Cameron, 1876 (described from 'Rannoch', Scotland) is its junior synonym. References to *Nematus ischnocerus* or *Pontania ischnocera* in earlier British literature all however refer to misidentifications of other species.

Based on Zaddach's inclusion of 'Scotland' in the list of type localities of the syntype series, *P. polita* (Zaddach, 1883) also occurs in Britain, but this requires confirmation. British material at present identified as *P. leucosticta* (Hartig) should be re-examined to decide whether this includes specimens of some of the other species treated by Kopelke.

Finally, *P. carinifrons* (Benson, 1940) is used as the valid name of the taxon on *Salix pentandra* which was previously misidentified as *P. excavata* Marlatt, a North American species.

***PARNA APICALIS* (BRISCHKE) – FOUND IN GREAT BRITAIN**

Rob Edmunds, Steve Hind, Andrew Liston & Keith Palmer

Keith Palmer found several leaf-mines on *Tilia cordata* (Small-leaved Lime) while searching Tunbridge Wells Common (VC16, West Kent) on 1.vi. 2007. Inspection of the frass indicated that they were made by a species of Hymenoptera. On looking at the photographs shown on the leaf-miner website (www.leafmines.co.uk) it was conjectured that they might be the mines of *Parna apicalis* (Brischke, 1888), but this was indicated to be a European species not known in the British Isles. These mines were sent to Andrew Liston for his opinion, who considered that there was 'little doubt' that the mines belonged to *P. apicalis*, although he had not found any larval exuviae.

On 16th June Keith collected several more mined leaves from the same tree: and sent them to Rob Edmunds, who photographed them along with larval exuviae that he found within one of the mines. He noted that the pattern of sclerotizations conformed strongly with



Top: Tenanted mine of *P. apicalis* on Small-leaved Lime

Bottom left: Larval exuvia

Bottom right: Mine of *P. apicalis* characteristically positioned on the leaf margin

Photographs: Rob Edmunds

those of *P. apicalis*. Dr. Ewald Altenhofer and AL were consulted, both of whom confirmed the identification. This species has not previously been recorded in Great Britain.

After these findings were published as a newsletter on the leaf-mine website (<http://www.leafmines.co.uk/pdfs/news5.pdf>), Steve Hind contacted Rob stating that he had recently found the same type of mine at two sites between Macclesfield and Stockport. He sent vacated leaf-mines collected at Poynton Coppice, Poynton, Cheshire (31.v.2007). These were photographed by RE and confirmed as *P. apicalis* by Ewald Altenhofer and AL. SH had first found tenanted mines of this type of mine at Torkington Park, Hazel Grove, Stockport (30.v.2006).

COMMENTS

The wide distribution of these recent English records seems to indicate that *P. apicalis* is well established in the UK. Perhaps it had previously been overlooked, although the possibility must be considered that it was accidentally introduced to Britain.

The wide continental distribution from southern Finland and Estonia, through Central Europe to Bulgaria in the South-East suggests that *P. apicalis* might be found to be more widespread in the British Isles than is indicated above.

We look forward to the first records of adults in the UK.

FURTHER DETAILS

Entomologist's Rec.J.Var (2007), 119, p223-226

REQUEST FOR RECORDS OF ALLANTUS, APETHYMUS & TAXONUS FOR MAPPING

Guy Knight

As I mentioned in the first newsletter, one of the main objectives of this group and the sawfly recording scheme is to attempt to map the distributions of species occurring in the British Isles and ultimately get a clearer idea of the current conservation status.

The 1980s Sawfly Study Group newsletters mapped several of non-tenthredinid species and I thought it would be interesting to put out a request for a small group within the Tenthredinidae to see how far we could get. I have chosen the tribe Allantini, partly because the fall right at the beginning of the family in the new British Isles checklist, they are fairly straight-forward to identify from the RES handbooks and, most truthfully, they are a group which particularly appeal to me. The thirteen British species are listed in bold on the right, some are probably only known from one or two 10km squares, others are very widespread. It would be useful to make a distinction between the two subspecies of *A. basalis* in the few localities where it has been found.

Allantus basalis
[*Allantus basalis basalis*]
[*Allantus basalis caledonicus*]
Allantus calceatus
Allantus cinctus
Allantus cingulatus
Allantus coryli
Allantus laticinctus
Allantus melanarius
Allantus rufocinctus
Allantus togatus
Allantus truncatus
Apethymus filiformis
= *A. abdominalis*
Apethymus serotinus
= *A. braccatus*
Taxonus agrorum

This tribe is not particularly well represented in the recording scheme data I already have and I would be really grateful of all records in any format, ideally with at least a 4 figure grid reference and date. Any unidentified specimens would also be welcomed. Please also send records of any other species! I look forward to including maps in future newsletters.