

# ORTHOPTERA RECORDING SCHEME

Newsletter No 12 - Spring 1987

## **National Recording Scheme to continue**

It has now been agreed that the national Orthoptera Recording Scheme will continue during 1987 to collect further records for inclusion in the forthcoming Atlas of the Orthoptera and allied insects of the British Isles. It is hoped that the Atlas will be published at the end of 1988, or early in 1989.

The Recording Scheme will also continue from 1988 onwards with the aim of getting more precise, site-related records, especially for the less common species, and to continue to improve overall national coverage for all species.

I am very pleased that Chris Haes has agreed to continue as national Scheme Organizer. Having retired recently, he is able to devote even more time to his natural history interests (lucky fellow!).

In the following section Chris describes the areas and species which need particular attention during 1987, to get as complete coverage as possible. Please try to make an effort to visit poorly worked areas during 1987 and send your records to Chris Haes as soon as possible, but not later than 31 October 1987. It helps greatly if you can use BRC record cards for submitting records. These cards are available free of charge from BRC. A pre-paid address label is enclosed if you wish to order a further supply of cards for 1987. Just say which cards you want and how many are required.

Details of the continuing recording scheme (1988 onwards) will form the basis of Newsletter No 13, to be circulated early in 1988.

Paul T Harding (BRC)

## **Priorities for recording** (or, where to spend your holiday)

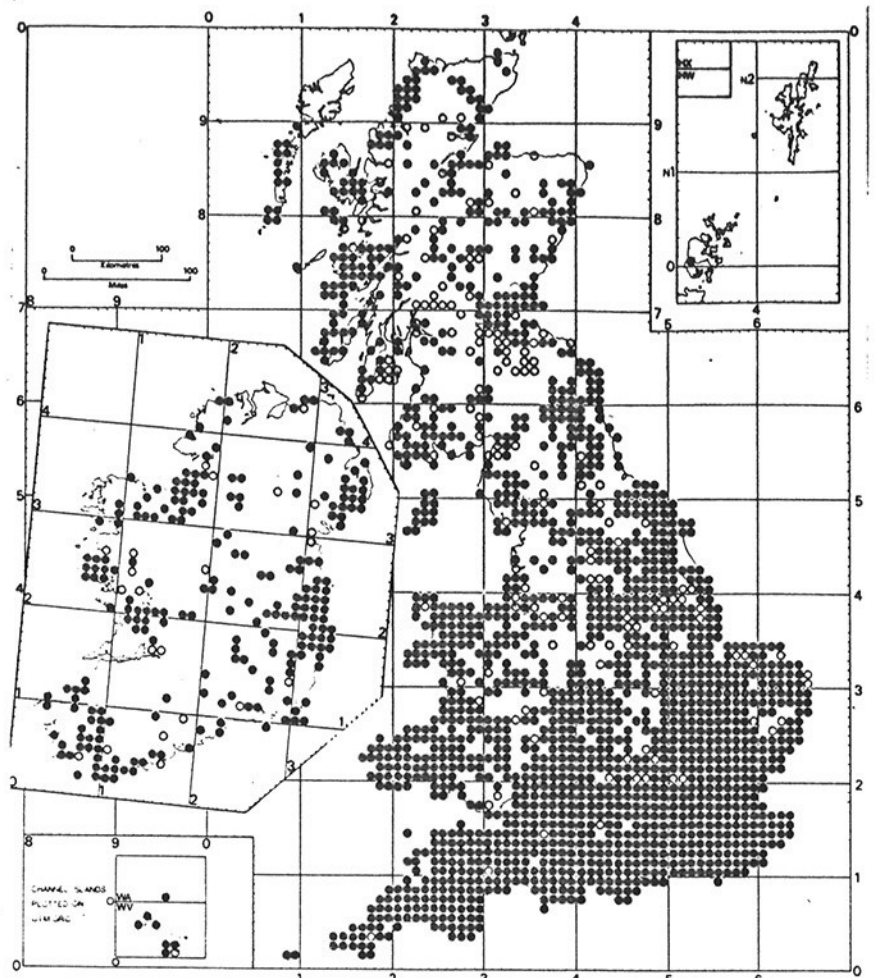
Provisional maps have been produced for inclusion in the forthcoming Harley Books publication (see below). We are very grateful to Basil Harley for permitting 2 of the maps to be used in this Newsletter. They show the overall coverage for Orthoptera only and the map for the common earwig.

**Both maps show that there is still a considerable amount of recording to be done.**

ORTHOPTERA

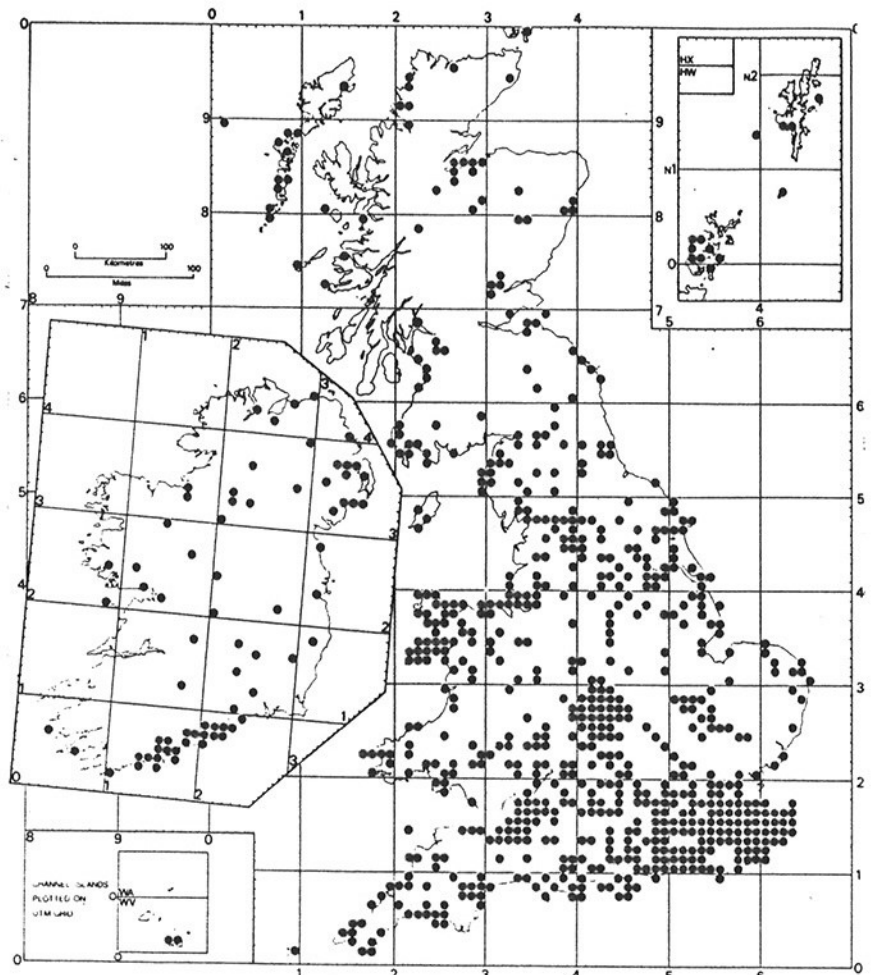
(excluding Dictyoptera,  
Dermaptera and Phasmida)

RECORDS RECEIVED



COMMON EARWIG

*Forficula auricularia*



1. Ireland - 100 km square 11(R) covering the lower reaches of the Shannon requires detailed investigation as soon as possible, particularly to investigate the possible distribution of the lesser marsh grasshopper and to find out if there are substantial Tettigoniid populations. Dark and Roesel's bush-cricket may be expected, and if the lesser marsh grasshopper is found to be widespread, the short winged cone-head would be worth searching for. There are old records of the oak bush-cricket from the area.
2. Scotland - 100 km squares 19(NA), 26(NS), 36(NF) would be worth detailed coverage. The only British 100 km square as yet unsearched for Orthoptera is 19(NA). Also there are still no post 1961 Orthoptera records for Arran or Eigg. Both islands are likely to be comparatively rich in species.
3. Oxford area - 10 km square 42/61 has 10 species of Orthoptera recorded in the post 1960 period. The list includes the woodland grasshopper and Lesne's earwig. Further squares around Oxford consequently justify investigation, as the district is obviously rich in orthopterans.
4. Individual species - the following should be worth a special search in the areas suggested.

Meconema thalassinum (DeGeer) Oak bush-cricket

The lower Shannon area in Ireland. Derbyshire, Cheshire and Lancashire.

Tettigonia viridissima L. Gt. Green bush-cricket

Check if it is still present on the Norfolk coast (square 63(TG)).

Decticus verrucivorus (L.) Wart-biter

Check for continuing presence in Kent and Wiltshire and search on the Dorset coast near Tynham and on the Isle of Wight near Ventnor.

Pholidoptera griseoptera (DeGeer) Dark bush-cricket

The lower Shannon area in Ireland, and Guernsey, Herm and Alderney in the Channel Islands; also in the vicinity of Glasgow airport in Scotland, where S H Church reported hearing probable stridulation in August 1986.

Platycleis albopunctata (Goeze) Grey bush-cricket

Wales, check for continuing presence on Llyn peninsula, around Aberdaron and Pwllheli.

Metrioptera brachyptera (L.) Bog bush-cricket

Check for sites in extreme west of Cornwall (square 10(SW)) and in Wales in Aberdaron, where the pre 1961 record is possibly confused with that for grey bush-cricket.

M. roeselii (Hagenbach) Roesel's bush-cricket

The lower Shannon in Ireland. In England check along any substantial verges of main roads, north-west or south from its main centre of distribution, in squares 41(SU), 51(TQ), 42(SP) and 52(TL). Also check on the Isle of Wight where so far there is only a single specimen recorded.

Conocephalus discolor (Thunberg)

East Kent: wasteland by roads and the coast are worth a special search for this species as yet unrecorded for the county. Also check for further spread westwards, beyond Weymouth in Dorset.

C. dorsalis (Latreille)

Cornwall: delete provisional record for Marazion Marsh but search any suitable terrain in the square 10(SW). Ireland: Lower Shannon, in conjunction with search for lesser marsh grasshopper.

Nemobius sylvestris (Bosc)

Cornwall: there is a remote possibility that it occurs in the Wadebridge area of Cornwall. Check roadside banks and edges of broad leaved woodland in the area. Stridulation, a subdued purring sound, June-October.

Tetrix undulata (Sowerby)

England: post 1961 records needed for the Isle of Man. Scotland: post 1961 records needed for the islands of Arran and Eigg.

Omocestus viridulus (L.) Common green grasshopper

West Cornwall: check the area of the Lizard Peninsula. The woodland grasshopper is present, but there are no records so far for this much commoner species. Scotland: post 1961 records are needed for Arran and Orkney.

Chorthippus albomarginatus (DeGeer) Lesser marsh grasshopper

Ireland: check lower reaches of Shannon. England: careful check of Lancashire coast is most desirable as confirmation of its presence here is badly needed.

C. parallelus (Zetterstedt)

England: check for presence on Norfolk coast. Scotland: post 1965 records needed for Arran.

Forficula auricularia L.

There is an urgent need to have as many records as can be made for specific localities for the common earwig. The insect is so common that most of us in the past have overlooked the need

to mention its presence. As a result there are all too few records which can be related to 10 km squares. Any records for Britain or Ireland will be very welcome! Please give 4 or 6 figure references, date and habitat.

#### A new reference book in preparation

A comprehensive book provisionally titled Grasshoppers and allied insects of Great Britain and Ireland is to be published by Harley Books in late 1987 or early 1988 (approx £20). The work will include Saltatoria as well as earwigs, phasmids, and cockroaches. The text is being written by Mrs J A Marshall and myself and the colour illustrations are by D Ovendon. This new reference book has become necessary because Dr D R Ragge's celebrated Grasshoppers, crickets and cockroaches of the British Isles (Warne 1965) is no longer available and is now a collectors item; surviving copies in good condition being well worth treasuring. The sound record that was produced for this work will however be re-issued by Dr J F Burton, with commentary by Dr D R Ragge for the new book as a tape cassette. Several additional species including the mole cricket will be added to the sound cassette.

#### Regional recording of Orthoptera and related orders

In Newsletter No 11 several local recording organizers were listed and a further 5 are added below. Please give local records centres any help you can, but remember that the national Orthoptera Recording Scheme is continuing and that I am remaining as national Scheme Organizer so **please ensure that your records come direct to me** at the address given at the end of the Newsletter.

1. Kent: Mr E G Philp

Maidstone Museum & Art Gallery, St Faith's Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1LH

2. Oxfordshire: Mr J Campbell

Oxfordshire County Museum, Woodstock, Oxford OX7 1SN

3. Hampshire (New Forest): Dr A J Pontin

Department of Zoology, Royal Holloway & Bedford College, Alderhurst,  
Englefield Green, Surrey

(All other Hampshire records (especially long-winged cone-head) to Chris Haes)

4. Lancashire and Cheshire: Dr I D Wallace

Merseyside County Museums, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN

5. Renfrewshire: Mr D Shearer, Chief Curator, for the attention of Mr D Mellor  
Renfrew District County, Museum and Art Galleries, High Street, Paisley,  
Renfrewshire PA1 2BA
6. Dundee area: Mr A Garside, Assistant Keeper of Natural History, City of Dundee District  
Council Art Galleries and Museum, Albert Square, Dundee DD1 1DA

### Missing data

If anyone can provide supporting evidence for the following 10 km<sup>2</sup> records please let Chris Haes know as soon as possible:

Chorthippus albomarginatus 41(SU)/31, 51(TQ)/25, 52(TL)/07, 52(TL)/12, 52(TL)/19, 52(TL)/27,  
53(TF)/01

Chorthippus parallelus 41(SU)/02, 43(SK)/00

Conocephalus dorsalis 51(TQ)/48, 52(TL)/12, 52(TL)/28, 62(TM)/02, 62(TM)/47

Gomphocerippus rufus 41(SU)/20

Leptophyes punctatissima 31(ST)/44, 41(SU)/05, 42(SP)/10, 42(SP)/22, 42(SP)/77, 51(TQ)/48,  
52(TL)/11, 52(TL)/16, 52(TL)/17, 53(TF)/33

Meconema thalassinum 31(ST)/20, 31(ST)/22, 32(SO)/78, 33(SJ)/25, 41(SU)/05, 41(SU)/06, 42(SP)/47,  
44(SE)/23, 52(TL)/27, 52(TL)/37, 62(TM)/33

Metrioptera brachyptera 33(SJ)/34, 52(TL)/46

Metrioptera roeselii 51(TQ)/59

Myrmeleotettix maculatus 23(SH)/27, 31(ST)/93, 32(SO)/09, 33(SJ)/73, 33(SJ)/84, 35(NY)/31,  
51(TQ)/44, 52(TL)/01, 52(TL)/92

Omocestus rufipes 31(ST)/93, 41(SU)/05, 41(SU)/21

Omocestus viridulus 10(SW)/93, 17(NM)/76, 23(SH)/27, 27(NN)/04, 28(NH)/63, 31(ST)/93, 32(SO)/09,  
32(SO)/27, 32(SO)/88, 32(SO)/89, 32(SO)/97, 33(SJ)/82, 33(SJ)/97, 35(NY)/03, 37(NO)/29,  
38(NJ)/30, 38(NJ)/60, 38(NJ)/63, 41(SU)/04

Pholidoptera griseoptera 10(SW)/54, 23(SH)/61, 31(ST)/95, 32(SO)/78, 32(SO)/79, 41(SU)/05,  
51(TQ)/39, 51(TQ)/49, 51(TQ)/59

Stenobothrus lineatus 31(ST)/87, 31(ST)/93, 31(ST)/94

Tetrix ceperoi 21(SS)/59

Tetrix subulata 30(SY)/29, 52(TL)/07, 52(TL)/18

Tetrix undulata 31(ST)/61, 43(SK)/70, 51(TQ)/47, 52(TL)/17, 53(TF)/21

Tettigonia viridissima 31(ST)/93, 41(SU)/44, 51(TQ)/98

Forficularia auricularia 10(SW)/44, 10(SW)/77, 21(SS)/93, 22(SN)/30, 23(SH)/59, 28(NH)/90,  
30(SY)/79, 31(ST)/15, 31(ST)/54, 31(ST)/68, 31(ST)/69, 31(ST)/78, 31(ST)/84, 32(SO)/03,  
32(SO)/41, 32(SO)/77, 32(SO)/77, 32(SO)/87, 32(SO)/93, 34(SD)/32, 35(NY)/01, 38(NJ)/02,  
42(SP)/09, 42(SP)/10, 42(SP)/21, 44(SE)/02, 52(TL)/16, 52(TL)/64, 53(TF)/21, 54(TA)/01

Forficula lesnei 41(SU)/37, 42(SP)/10, 42(SP)/60, 61(TR)/23

Labia minor 32(SO)/80, 51(TQ)/17, 51(TQ)/26, 54(TA)/51

Ectobius pallidus 41(SU)/41

Ectobius panzeri 40(SZ)/39, 51(TQ)/66

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