

ORTHOPTERA RECORDING SCHEME

Newsletter 22

Edited by E C M Haes

Autumn 1995

The Atlas

I take this opportunity to say thankyou for all the valuable records sent in for the National Atlas over the last twenty years. This atlas will now appear in time for the 1996 season, with maps updated to 1995. It will be published by HMSO. The basic atlas will contain a minimum text to complement the 10 km maps and it will in consequence be inexpensive. It will also be possible, at extra cost, on request, to obtain the detailed histories in this country, of any individual species. I hope also to complete the reference list and bibliography to back the full texts, in the near future, and this also should be available on request, at extra cost.

Change of Scheme Organiser

I am very pleased to say that John Widgery (see address on page 4) has offered to undertake this honorary post, at least for the first two years of the post atlas period. To facilitate the change-over please:

- Send all records to Chris Haes (see address on page 4) before the end of November 1995,
- Use only the appropriate recording cards, (obtainable from Monks Wood - see address on page 4); it will no longer be practicable for the organiser to transfer data from lists,
- Please send a SAE, if you need any reply from the organiser, even if your request can be sent in a franked envelope. Remember that the organiser is an unpaid volunteer, and postage is no longer a matter of a few pence! Sorry to have to say this.

New Publications

- 1 John Paul has recently published the results of his survey of orthoptera in Greater London; Paul, J. 1995. "Orthoptera in the London Archipelago" *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* **106**: 89-95. This makes a fascinating comparison with R.M. Payne's 1958 "The Distribution of grasshoppers and allied insects in the London area". *Lond. Nat.* **37**: 102-115. Several of Paul's records are included in the species list below.
- 2 John Widgery has produced two further papers on orthopteroids in Hertfordshire; Widgery, J.P. 1995 (a) "Report for Grasshoppers, Crickets and related species, 1994". *Trans. Herts. Nat. Hist. Soc.* **32**(3): 213.
1995(B) "The arrival of the Long-winged Cone-head (*Conocephalus discolor*) in Hertfordshire - a new species for the County". *Ibid.* **32**(3): 222-223.
- 3 Roy Frost's Orthoptera report for 1994, in the *Journal Derbyshire Entomological Society*, for this year includes important new records and observations on existing populations, not only for the county but also for the adjacent counties of Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.

Important new records

Meconema thalassinum (De Geer), **Oak Bush-cricket**. In the Greater London area Paul notes that it is well established and widely distributed on street trees such as Horse Chestnut and Lime, indicating that it is well able to exploit urban habitat. A new urban record for the bush-cricket is Lincoln, Doddington Road, SK(43)9169, VC53, by Frost in July 1994.

Tettigonia viridissima (L.), **Great Green Bush-cricket**. In Greater London, Paul notes that it is still numerous at Erith Marshes, VC16 and in small numbers by the Ingrebourne at Rainham, VC18. Just outside the region, in VC16, a strong and persistent colony is recorded by Graeme and Caroline Stroud, in a patch of waste ground at Stanhope Road, Swanscombe, TQ(51)608742. Elsewhere in southern England very large populations have been noted, by several recorders, in VCs 1, 3, 6, 9, 1 and 15, and in Wales in 45. In VC1, Scilly Islands, several recorders have noted that it is absent from St Agnes and Gough, SV(00)81. Confirmation from Bryher and St Martin's is still required. It has only been confirmed for St Mary's and Tresco, at least in the post 1980 period.

Platycleis albopunctata (Goeze), **Grey Bush-cricket**. In North Wales Alex Ramsay confirmed the continuing presence of this species in VC49; at Prthysgo, SH(23)209254. He found several adults on a south-west facing, sheep grazed sea cliff, on 1.07.1992.

Metrioptera brachyptera (L). **Bog Bush-cricket**. Another extremely important find has been the confirmation of this bush-cricket in south-west Scotland. Jennifer Newton saw a specimen and then located a colony with the aid of a bat detector, at Aucheninnes, (Cloak), Moss, near Dalbeattie, NX(25)856596 in the first week of August this year. This is not only the first certain Scottish record for a definite locality, but also a new county record, for Kirkcudbrightshire, VC73. Unfortunately there is "massive development of a land fill area and new roads", just to the north of the colony, in the same moss. A further small colony was located in East Cornwall, VC2, by Ian Davies, on Goss Moor NNR, near Tregon Mill, SX(20)9760, in July 1992, (per Tania Acuna).

Metrioptera roeselii (Hagenbach), **Roesel's Bush-cricket**. During the last two summers huge populations have been noted by several observers in the Home Counties, including on the verges of the southern part of the M25, in 1994, (Paul, op.cit.). As there is still much data to be sent in, details of its continuing spread will await the next newsletter.

Conocephalus discolor (Thunberg), **Long-winged Cone-head**. Much additional detail about the amazing spread of this bush-cricket should be ready for the next newsletter, however some very important new records have arrived in time for this edition. West to east - in East Cornwall, VC2, a small colony was located by Steven Madge in the Seaton Valley, at SX(20)303554, between Seaton and Hessenford, on 14 August last. The site is on marshy ground about 1 km inland. John Walters found two stridulating, extra-macropterous males, in South Devon, VC3. The first on 18 August, was at what must be an altitude record for this country, on Haytor Down, SX(20)762774, at 390 m.

The second was near the railway station in Totnes, SX(20)803614, on 20 August. The species has now appeared in Somerset. Robert Cropper has provided a new vice-county record for North Somerset, VC6, with an extra-macropterous male, located stridulating by a bat detector, on a roadside at Withal Friary, ST(31)764418.

In the Greater London area a single extra-macropterous male was found, in 1994, on a derelict playing field in Dulwich Hamlet, TQ(51)331753, VC17, (Paul, op. cit.). In late July and through August this year John Widgery has so far added new county records for North Essex, VC19 and Middlesex VC21, and confirms that there are now established colonies in Hertfordshire, VC20. Some of these are close to the borders of Cambridgeshire, VC29 and Bedfordshire, VC30. It is very probably that the bush-cricket is already in both these counties as well. Full details in the next newsletter.

Conocephalus dorsalis (Latreille), **Short-winged Cone-head**. This bush-cricket has now been refound in Jersey, VC113. On 9 October last year Tony Warne found specimens on the banks of newly made pools at Grouville Marsh, (per Margaret Long).

Leptophyes punctatissima (Bosc), **Speckled Bush-cricket**. A new Monmouthshire, VC35, locality is Slade Wood near Caerwent, ST(31)452893, where Roger Hawkins found nymphs in a ride, in June last year.

Tetrix subulata (L.), **Slender Ground-hopper**. David Richmond has now located the ground-hopper in all the major river systems in Norfolk, with 29 additional records this spring. It is now known from 33 of the 72 10 km squares or part squares covered by the county.

Tetrix undulata (Sowerby), **Common Ground-hopper**. Interesting new Scottish record are from the Kintyre Peninsula, by J.B. Jobe, at Torrisdace Castle, NR(16)7935, VC101, 1 August 1994, and from Glasdrum NNR, NM(17)996453, VC98, by Simon Breasley, in June this year. This latter is a new county record.

Stenobothrus lineatus (Panzer), **Stripe-winged Grasshopper**. Refound in Cornwall on the MoD section of Penhale Dunes, SW(10)769572, VC1, by Steve Jones, 28 August 1994. In Greater London a strong, localised colony survives in Richmond Park, (Paul, op. cit.).

Omocestus rufipes (Zetterstedt), **Woodland Grasshopper**. Found by Cropper on 13 August this year, at a further Somerset site; Postlebury Wood, ST(31)748426, VC6. Small colony on a heathy ride.

Chorthippus albomarginatus (De Geer), **Lesser Marsh Grasshopper**. In the course of extracting details of orthopteroids for the vice-county, Chris Hall has unearthed an interesting old record for North Hampshire. On 23 August 1939, a specimen, (confirmed by F.D. Goodcliffe), was taken by A.W. Richards on Cover Common; now the site of Farnborough Airfield. This is the first record for VC12.

Periplaneta australasiae (Fab.), **Australian Cockroach**. Maxwell Barclay, in an article on pest cockroaches, (Barclay, in prep.), will include mention of an infestation of this

species in the hot houses of Cambridge Botanic Gardens, in 1990. Strangely this seems to be a new county record for VC29.

Nauphoeta cinerea (Olivier), **Cinereous Cockroach**. In the same article Barclay gives details of a now well established population of this alien cockroach at Jersey Zoo, VC113, despite control measures. The cockroach may now be added to the list of breeding orthopteroids in the British Isles.

Ectobius panzeri Stephens, **Lesser Cockroach**. A new post 1960 record for East Suffolk, VC25, was the discovery of two nymphs of this species, by M.E.A. Shardlow, in a disused quarry at Minsmere NNR, TM(62)4569, on 10 June this year.

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