

- 3 -

ORTHOPTERA MAPPING SCHEME

NEWSLETTER NO. 1

New Organiser: E. C. M. Haes

E. C. M. Haes has recently been appointed national organiser for the Orthoptera mapping scheme, with the task of organising the completion of the 10 km square recording scheme for Orthoptera in the British Isles.

Current Situation:

The recorded distributions of native Orthoptera up to 1977 are shown in the BRC provisional maps to be published in autumn 1977.

Although the overall coverage looks quite reasonable far too many squares have probably been under-recorded. This is especially the case in Cornwall and the Midlands where, it would seem from data received, that most 10 km square records in these areas are based on one or two casually recorded species rather than on detailed surveys for Orthoptera and Dictyoptera.

Fairly detailed surveys have however been carried out recently in parts of Kent, the whole of Sussex and most of Surrey; much of Dorset and Hants. except in the south-east of Hants. which is still seriously under-recorded; south, but not north Devon; the Severn Valley and adjacent Cotswolds; the Thames Valley; certain parts of Wales; parts of East Anglia, especially the Fens; the North Yorkshire Moors and parts of south-west Scotland.

Seriously under-recorded regions in urgent need of investigation by Orthopterists are: Cornwall (south and north), north Devon and west Somerset; Hampshire east of the route of the M3, most of the Midlands within a line drawn through Oxford-Worcester-Birmingham-Nottingham-Northampton-London. Practically the whole of the Pennines from Derbyshire to the Scottish Border and almost all Cumbria and Lancashire. Most of Ireland and Scotland remains unrecorded. It would seem especially worth checking for Orthoptera in the entomologically rich areas of the Burren in Ireland and the Spey Valley in Scotland.

It is quite possible that new species of Orthoptera may yet be located in less visited parts of Britain. This is clear from the discovery of the lesser-mottled grasshopper (Stenobothrus stigmaticus Rambur) on the Langness Peninsula in the Isle of Man in 1962; while local species could well be detected far away from their known localities as was the wart-biter bush-cricket (Decticus verrucivorus (L.)) in Wiltshire in 1971 and Roesel's bush-cricket (Metrioptera roeselii (Hagenbach)) in the Dovey Estuary, Wales in 1970 and Cork Harbour, Ireland (1976).

Our native Orthoptera are not difficult to identify in the field with practice, and might well prove to be an ideal and relatively easy second string for, say, Lepidopterists, who are likely to visit more remote or urbanised areas easily passed by more general naturalists. It certainly seems worth studying our forty-two native or well-established alien Orthoptera and Dictyoptera as they seem to exist here near the edge of their natural ranges. Most occur in distinct colonies and a study of such colonies could well reveal much about other aspects of natural history and local ecology. A much fuller account of the present status of native Orthoptera and Dictyoptera will shortly be published by the Amateur Entomologists' Society.

ORTHOPTERA MAPPING SCHEME

Who to contact:

NEWSLETTER NO. 1

In future all records, completed cards, general correspondence or queries on the scheme should be sent to me.

If you require blank cards, these can be obtained from:

Biological Records Centre,  
Monks Wood Experimental Station,  
Abbots Ripton,  
Huntingdon, Cambs., PE17 2LS

Current Situation

The recorded distributions of Orthoptera in the British Isles are shown in the BRC provisional maps to be published in autumn 1977.

E C M Haes,  
5 Grinstead Avenue,  
Lancing,  
West Sussex.

Although the overall coverage looks quite reasonable for too many species have probably been under-recorded. This is especially the case in the Midlands where, it would seem from data received, there are sparse records in these areas based on one or two casually recorded species rather than on detailed surveys for Orthoptera and Dictyoptera.

August, 1977

Recently detailed surveys have however been carried out recently in parts of Kent, the whole of Sussex and most of Surrey; much of Dorset and Hampshire in the south-east of England, which is still seriously under-recorded; the south, but not north Devon, the Severn Valley and adjacent Cotswolds; the Thames Valley; certain parts of Wales; parts of East Angles, especially the East of Angles; the North Yorkshire Moors and parts of south-west Scotland.

Particularly under-recorded regions in urgent need of investigation by Orthoptera are: Cornwall (south and north), north Devon and west Somerset; Hampshire east of the route of the M3, most of the Midlands within a line drawn through Oxford-Worcester-Birmingham-Northampton-London. Practically the whole of the Pennines from Derbyshire to the Scottish Border and almost all Cumbria and Lancashire. Most of Ireland and Scotland remains unrecorded. It would seem especially worth checking for Orthoptera in the entomologically rich areas of the Burren in Ireland and the Gey Valley in Scotland.

It is quite possible that new species of Orthoptera may yet be located in less visited parts of Britain. This is clear from the discovery of the lesser-spotted grasshopper (*Blepharidopterus alpestris* Rambur) on the Limestone Pennines in the late of May in 1962; while local species could well be detected far away from their known localities as was the wart-biter bush-cricket (*Deinoceramus verticillatus* (L.)) in Wiltshire in 1971 and Hoesel's bush-cricket (*Metrionotus rosae* (Hagenbach)) in the Dovey Estuary, Wales in 1970 and Gork Harrow, Ireland (1976).

Our native Orthoptera are not difficult to identify in the field with practice and might well prove to be an ideal and relatively easy second string for say Lepidoptera, who are likely to visit more remote or urbanised areas easily passed by more general naturalists. It certainly seems worth studying our forty-two native or well-established alien Orthoptera and Dictyoptera as they seem to exist here near the edge of their natural ranges. Most occur in distinct colonies and a study of such colonies could well reveal much about other aspects of natural history and local ecology. A much fuller account of the present status of native Orthoptera and Dictyoptera will shortly be published by the Amateur Entomologists' Society.