

ORTHOPTERA RECORDING SCHEME

NEWSLETTER No 16 — *Summer 1990* Summer 1990

E.C.M. Haes

SYMBOLS IN MAPS FOR DEFINITIVE ATLAS;

The overall 10 km.square coverage maps for the Orders to indicate pre- & post- 1960 records(as at present).

The species maps to indicate pre 1961 & 1961-1980, plus a separate symbol for post- 1980 records for all species.

The maps to be supplemented with:

- [a] Wetlands area map.
- [b] Calcareous areas map.
- [c] A two symbol altitude map; with 150 & 250m. contours, - these being the most relevant for British orthopterans.
- [d] Mean rainfall map.
- [e] Urban density map.
- [f] Surviving Heathlands map.

NEW UPDATES FOR MARSHALL & HAES, 1988:

- [a] Additional Off-shore Island List (Post-1960)

Flatholm[V.C. 41] Pholidoptera griseoptera

Chorthippus brunneus

Forficula auricularia

- [b] Additions to island species lists: (both post 1960):

Arran[V.C.100] Omocestus viridulus

Orkney[V.C.111] "

- [c] Additions to Vice-county Lists: post-1960

Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa: V.C.17 (Surrey)

Tetrix subulata: V.C. 60 (West Lancs.)

Tetrix undulata: V.C. 101(Kintyre)

Omocestus viridulus: V.C. 111(Orkney), V.C. 100 (Clyde Islands),

Forficula auricularia: V.C. 105 (W.Ross)

V.C. 107 (E.Sutherland)

MORE RECORD CENTRES FOR ORTHOPTERAN RECORDING:

V.C.23(OXFORD): contact John Campbell

Dept. Leisure and Arts

Oxfordshire County Museum

Fletchers House

Woodstock, Oxford, OX7 1SN

V.Cs. 27&28(NORFOLK): contact David Richmond

42, Richmond Rise

Reepham, Norfolk, NR10 4LS

V.C.s. 105,106,107,108&109(Sutherland,Ross&Caithness)

contact Neil Redgate

Cnoc &Lochan Wildlife.

Burnside, Murkle, Caithness, KW14 8YT

V.C. 111(Orkney): contact K.Fairclough

RSPB warden

Ley House, Hoy, Orkney, KW16 3NJ

NEW LITERATURE:

[a]Cornish Biological Records 12 "Grasshoppers and Related Insects", available from Cornish Biological Records Unit , Trevithick Building , Trevenon Rd. , Pool , REDRUTH , Cornwall TR15 3PL; has, of necessity, been produced to a new specification, in consequence of which the price has been reduced to £3.50, plus £1.00 postage, so that any one who ordered from NL.15 will receive £1.50 back as quickly as possible. Apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused. NB: Please make cheques to 'Institute of Cornish Studies.'

[b] "British, European and Mediterranean Stick- insects" by Paul Brock, in preparation and scheduled for printing next April. Details in next newsletter. Publisher is Fitzgerald Publishing.

OBSERVATIONS ON CERTAIN NATIVE SPECIES

As this is to be the last summer of recording for the definitive atlas, it seems appropriate to consider here the distribution of native species for which further data would be desirable.

Meconema thalassinum, Oak Bush-cricket

Worth searching for beyond the peripheries of its known range ,especially in the Lake District and central and southern Ireland. Adrian Fowles has found it worthwhile to beat for nymphs in late spring-early summer; (also a good time in which to look for early-stage nymphs of Dark and Speckled bush-crickets, as they sun themselves on low foliage of bramble, nettle, etc.).

Tettigonia viridissima Gt. Green Bush-cricket

Present status in Cambridge, Suffolk and Norfolk needs updating as there are, apart from the vicinity of Ipswich, and one recent Breckland site, virtually no other post-1960 records for these counties. Disused railways and coastal scrub will probably be the best places to search.

Decticus verrucivorus, Wart-biter

Still worth searching in warm, sheltered situations on the cliffs around St. Margaret's Bay and the Dover area in E. Kent, and the Tyneham area in Dorset. Andy Cherrill's survey of chalkland populations for the NCC is now completed and the results are being published from this year: Cherrill, 1989 and Cherrill and Brown, in press. I understand from Peter leBrocq that the known Dorset colony may be at risk from recently planted trees.

Pholidoptera griseoptera, Dark Bush-cricket

Very few records so far for W. Norfolk, Northants. or Notts. and no post-1960 records for Derby or Cheshire, or for Yorkshire, V.Cs. 61 and 62. Still only one site each for Ireland or Scotland known to date. Most desirable for more records from the 10km. squares around the known localities in these places.

Platycleis albopunctata, Grey Bush-cricket

The records for Caernarvon, V.C.49, need updating (squares 23/12 and 23/33. Two more Welsh, pre-1960 sites are in Pembs. 22/72 and Glamorgan, 31/16 (Brown and White, 1941).

Metrioptera brachyptera, Bog Bush-cricket

It is possible that all coastal, non-heathland site records are in fact of the last species. Thus records of all periods, from squares 20/25, 21/21, 23/33, 51/70, 51/81 and 61/34 are most probably of P. albopunctata. As many of these squares as possible should be rechecked this summer.

Leptophyes punctatissima, Speckled Bush-cricket

The records for Kirkcudbright, V.C.73 and Wigtown, V.C.74, are pre-1980 and need updating for the atlas. It might also be worth looking for this widespread species in warmer parts of the Lake District, where the Dark Bush-cricket has been found over the last decade.

Gryllus campestris, Field-cricket

Several burrows with nymphs seen at the Coats Castle site W. Sussex, V.C.13, by Mike Edwards and me on April 9th. This population has been under observation since May 1964.

Pseudomogoplistes squamiger, Scaly Cricket

Latest record from only known site is Sep. 12th. 1989, by Adrian Fowles.

Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa, Mole-cricket

Singleton, found in garden at Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey, V.C.17, square 51/27, last September. It had probably been introduced on plants from the Mediterranean area. (D.S. Martin, 1990). Also reported from the Pershore area, by the Worcs. Avon, V.C.37 but needs confirmation. This report, together with two most interesting letters about earlier colonies by the Hampshire Avon and at Sholing, Southampton, were received by John Burton in response to his "Countryman" article, and I am grateful to him for the copies.

Tetrix subulata, Slender Ground-hopper

A specimen found by Mrs. Jennifer Newton on Silverdale Moss (SD 474774) in 1987, has been sent by its finder to the British Museum (Natural History) and confirmed by Judith Marshall as f. bifaciata, of this species; a first record for V.C. 60 (West Lancs.) and a most important extension to its known range.

Stethophyma grossum, Large Marsh Grasshopper

Chris. Gardiner has examined the two Welsh specimens in the Kloet collection (NL 15) and found they are in fact Common Green Grasshoppers.

Stenobothrus stigmaticus, Lesser Mottled Grasshopper

Thankyou to the considerable number who wrote about the threat to the unique I.O.M. colony from the proposed extension of a golf course; the outcome is still awaited at time of writing (April 1990).

It would certainly be worth searching for further populations on southerly facing headlands along the coasts of western Britain and southern and eastern Ireland.

Omocestus viridulus, Common Green Grasshopper

Confirmed for Hoy (V.C.111) by Keith Fairclough, at Rackwick, squares 39/19 (1988) and 39/29 (1989) and known from the area since 1984. It now remains to be refound in Caithness and a search along the A9, between Helmsdale and Wick, is an obvious area; (and infact records of ANY grasshoppers or earwigs in this district would be a valuable contribution) See Map 1.

Gomphocerippus rufus, Rufous Grasshopper
Recorded for Glamorgan V.C. 41, in Sep. 1940, " -- plentiful on a steep dampish hillside facing east " (Brown and White, 1941). From the habitat mentioned this is not a satisfactory record. Furthermore no actual locality was given, but by inference it was in the vicinity of Barry, square 31/16. As this is the only report of the grasshopper from Wales, it is most desirable the record is confirmed with a specimen, or better still the site complete with grasshopper is refound.

Myrmeleotettix maculatus, Mottled Grasshopper
Several recorders have noted this species as an insect of river shingles in upland Britain, so a special search in this habitat would seem worthwhile, especially where there are few or no records, particularly in V.Cs. 92- 94 and 97- 109; see Map 2.

Ectobius lapponicus Dusky Cockroach
New county record for Herts. John Widgey found a male in his garden at Potters Bar, 24 May 1990. This is possibly a stray, but nevertheless an exciting new county record; females needed to confirm a colony.

REFERENCES

- Brown, P. S. and White, Leslie, L.R., 1941. Orthoptera of Glamorgan. The Entomologist, Feb. 1941, p. 45.
- Cherrill, A.J., 1989. The diet of the wart-biter, Decticus verrucivorus (L.). British Ecological Soc. Bulletin 20. pp. 115-118.
- Cherrill, A.J. and Brown, V.K., in press. The life cycle and distribution of the wart-biter, Decticus verrucivorus (L.) (Orthoptera: Tettigoniidae) in a chalk grassland in southern England. Biological Conservation.
- , in press. The habitat requirements of adults of the wart-biter, Decticus verrucivorus (L.) (Orthoptera Tettigoniidae) in southern England. Biological Conservation.
- Martin, D.S., 1990. The London Atalanta No. 17. Jan. 1990.

MAPS

1. Omocestus viridulus, records to April 1990
2. Myrmeleotettix maculatus, records to April 1990

E.C.M. Haes
6 Hatch's Hill
Angarrack
HAYLE
Cornwall TR27 5HY