Het News

Newsletter of the Heteroptera Recording Schemes

Issue 4
Autumn 2004

2nd Series

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Editorial: We hope you have had an excellent summer bug-wise and look forward to receiving your news There are four recent arrivals to talk about but most of these are still awaiting formal publication and so full details must wait, but we do have 2 book reviews and much more! As always we thank our contributors and apologise to those whose articles may have been somewhat truncated.

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Contents

Recent arrivals

An exceptional number of these this time!

The Southern Green Shield Bug, *Nezara viridula* (L., 1758)

In the Autumn issue 2003 we reported that the shield bug *Nezara viridula* had been found breeding in the London area, and that we would report further in the next issue. Sorry - we omitted to do that, but following formal publication we can now do this.

Over the years *N. viridula* has been frequently imported with fruit and vegetables from various countries, both in Europe and further a field (Barclay, 2004). In August 2003 5th instar nymphs were found on tomato plants in the Queens Park area of London and were presented to Max Barclay at the Natural History Museum. They came from 2 separate gardens and so were probably not first generations. In September 2003, nymphs were found in the small Camley Street Nature Reserve in Kings Cross, on *Viburnum* (Shardlow & Taylor, 2004 – in press). BSN & SEB also found it here on Golden Rod, Hemp Agrimony and other plants.

Nezara viridula is quite a distinctive species and the nymphs particularly so. The adult (centre), which overwinters, most closely resembles *Palomena prasina* but is larger (11-15mm), rather paler in colour, has a clear membrane, appearing green, unlike the usual brown membrane of *Palomena.* The base of the scutellum has a row of 3-5 small white spots with a small black spot at each corner. In some individuals the head and front margin of the pronotum can be cream-coloured.

The nymphs are very striking, 5th instars (right) having 4 rows of white markings on the greenish abdomen, with red markings round the edge of the abdomen and pronotum. The younger instars (left) have similar white markings but on a black abdomen and red markings only on the edge of the pronotum. *Palomena* nymphs, in the last two instars, are usually wholly green while younger nymphs have black markings on green.

This bug is thought to have originated in Ethiopia and has now spread across the continents, causing

crop damage in some warmer countries. The summer of 2003 was exceptionally hot and ideal for breeding and so it remains to be seen if this species can survive a cold winter, or less ideal summer conditions.

Have you seen any of these bugs in the south, or anywhere else for that matter, in 2004?

References

Barclay, M.V.L., 2004. The Green Vegetable Bug *Nezara viridula* (L., 1758) (Hem.:Pentatomidae) new to Britain. *Entomologist's Record* **116,** 55-58.

Shardlow, M.E.A. & Taylor, R. 2004. The Southern Green Shield Bug *Nezara viridula* (L., 1758) (Hemiptera:Pentatomidae) – another species colonising Britain due to climate change? *British Journal of Entomology & Natural History.* In press.

SEB

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Species News

Brachycarenus tigrinus (Schilling)

This Rhopalid bug was found in London by Richard Jones in 2003 and its arrival was not unexpected. Formal publication due out soon in *British Journal of Entomology & Natural History*.

More information on this species in our next issue.

Hypseloecus visci (Puton)

This bug, belonging to the tribe Pilophorini, was found by David Gibbs in 2003 in Somerset. As the name suggests it was on Mistletoe. It has also been found by Jonty Denton (see article p 5). Formal publication will also be in *British Journal of Entomology & Natural History,* and so more in a future issue

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Naucoris maculatus (Fabricius)

In September 2004 BSN & SEB found this bug on the south Kent coast. Adults and immatures were present and it is something to look out for at the present time of year. We will bring you more details in the next issue by which time there will have been a formal publication.

Meanwhile, should you be out pond-dipping you may come across some unusual-looking saucer-bugs. These are some of the differences between this species and our familiar species *Ilyocoris cimicoides*. Good luck!

SEB

Ilyocoris cimicoides	***Naucoris maculatus***
Size usually 12-15mm	Size 9.8-10.4mm
Head, pronotum & scutellum very glossy	Head glossy, pronotum & scutellum with sheen
Diffuse dark 'rectangle' each half of pronotum	5 dark 'wedges' on the pronotum

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From the Regions

Fife

Fife Environmental Recording Network

Fife's local record centre (FERN) was happy to assist Thomas Huxley with the editing and design of *The Water Bugs of Fife & Kinross (Vice-County 85).* See review p4.

Fife boasts a rich and diverse environment, from the uplands of the Lomond Hills, the rolling agriculture of the East Neuk, and the busy urban centres, to the expansive and varied coastline. So that we might better understand, enjoy and conserve Fife's environment, there is a need to gather and make available high quality environmental information, this is the role fulfilled by FERN.

FERN OBJECTIVES

- To act as a focal point for the public to access environmental information for Fife and local communities.
- To increase local people's interest and participation in environmental stewardship.
- To help conserve Fife's environment by providing high quality information to decision-makers and taking part in innovative projects.
- To make information available for planning, conservation, education, research and the general public.
- To publish material relating to Fife's environment through a programme of publications and the Fife Direct website.
- To work in partnership with local people and environmental organisations to encourage and co-ordinate systematic recording of the environment.

You can help FERN to monitor Fife's natural environment by sending us records of wildlife observed in Fife. Further details, recording aids, and other publications are available online.

Simon Scott (FERN)
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Suffolk

The following interesting note was sent by Adrian Chalkley, who received it from Andrew Green of Harleston. Andrew writes:

"I thought you might be interested in the following two pictures (one is below) of a water stick insect, *Ranatra linearis*. I took them at Hen Reedbeds SWT Reserve near Southwold (TM471771) on 16 May 2004 at 12.45pm. The weather was sunny and the temperature about 20ºC. It was found by the reserve's voluntary warden walking relatively briskly and purposefully along the gravel path near the car

park, making no attempt to enter the damp vegetation on either side, and continued to walk some 30 yards on the path. Parts of the path contained larger stones and the insect had no problem in climbing over these, as can be seen in the photo. Perhaps it thought it was on the bottom of a gravel pit. Is this behaviour usual? "

In the species description in Recorder 3 it is stated that 'Will quite readily leave the water to hunt in adjacent vegetation', so it is known to go on walk-about.

Neither Adrian nor the Eds have seen Ranatra hiking over what must seem like huge boulders – have you?

Cornwall

You may be interested to know that through the Records Centre we have set up a Cornwall Invertebrate Group, a field meeting based group. We have a good recording tradition in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, but in the past a lot of invertebrate recorders have been going it alone. There is already a very active Moth Group and Butterfly Conservation Group in Cornwall but a lot of the other groups were not really being recorded, primarily due to lack of expertise. Both the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Federation of Biological Recorders (CISFBR) and the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS) felt the need to arrange at least three meetings a year where individuals can meet up. The aim of the group is to bring together various invertebrate recorders, some of which are the sole recorders for a taxonomic group.

One of the positive aspects of doing this is that we can get a range of recorders to visit a site whilst at the same time linking them with the managers of the site. For instance, from the meeting on Goss Moor NNR we had in 2002, David and Geraldine Holyoak refound the RDB snail *Lymnaea glabra*, and were able to report back to the warden about suggested management.

We would welcome anyone from the Aquatic Heteroptera Recording Scheme who wishes to record in Cornwall or the Isles of Scilly on any of the future meetings, or if they would like more information or contacts for various sites to visit in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly i am in a good position to find out who would be relevant to contact. Hopefully we can get a few more records!

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Ian Bennallick ERCCIS
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Oxfordshire

The Oxfordshire Biological Records Centre covers the administrative county of Oxfordshire, VC23 [Oxfordshire] and part of VC22 [NW Berkshire]. Heteroptera recording has been one of the stronger elements of the OBRC, including the collection of published records, records of heteropterists who have worked in the county and a considerable amount of field work by the BRC. It is here that the tremendous contribution in identifications made formerly by Dr W.J. le Quesne and latterly by Dr Peter Kirby should be acknowledged.

The result of this activity has been to add to the County Lists of Heteroptera published in the E.M.M. February 1955. The terrestrial Heteroptera species list increased by 61 in VC23, and by 37 in VC22, and the aquatic list increased by 10 species in VC23 and by 6 species in VC22. Some species are common and were probably not recorded, others are the result of species splitting, and others are new colonists from other parts of Britain and overseas.

Amongst the most recent additions are *Spathocera dahlmanni* in VC22, *Amblytylus brevicollis* in VC23 and *Salda litoralis, Monosynamma sabulicola* and *Tupiocoris rhododendri* in both VCs.

All Oxfordshire records will be welcomed.

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Northants

I don't get a chance to do much specifically hettish nowadays, but have noticed this year that *Stictopleurus abutilon* and *Deraeocoris flavilinea* are now abundant in Peterborough (they were here before, but this year they seem to have made the breakthrough to universality); *Stictopleurus abutilon*, *Lygus pratensis* and *Buchananiella continua* have reached close to the southern outskirts of Cambridge at least; I've found *Graptopeltus lynceus* in Peterborough for the first time, and have added a couple more ponds to the curious set of Peterborough records for *Notonecta obliqua.*

Pete Kirby

Kent

In September 2004 we revisited the coast just north of Deal, between the golf course and the sea, an area frequented by many notable naturalists in the past. We spent much of out time looking around the *Erodium* rosettes and *Galium* spp, and generally poking around. This tactic paid off as we found a number of interesting species: *Odontoscellis lineola, Legnotus picipes, Sciocoris cursitans, Eurygaster maura, Podops inuncta, Plinthisus brevipennis* and a dead, headless body of what would seem to be *O. fuliginosa* A return visit next year might discover a live *one!*

Although these records give the impression of a brilliant site, nearly all the goodies were found in just a few square metres – most of the coastal strip between Deal and the houses of Sandwich Bay was quite dull. The good area was where the public footpath wound through small sand hills with loose sand merging into grasses, with *Erodium* in the transition zone. It seemed to us that the exceptional het fauna here is endangered in the extreme! There might be good areas on the golf course, which covers most of the former dunes, but we couldn't check and anyway most of the area too is unpromising tall vegetation or gorse. Interestingly the area called 'Sandwich' or 'Deal' by entomologists is in neither of these parishes.

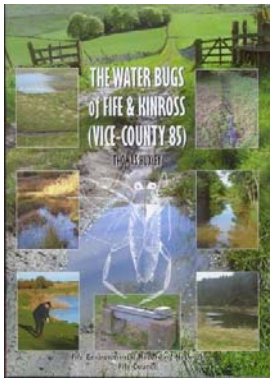
SEB & BSN

Book review

The Water Bugs of Fife & Kinross (Vice-County 85) by Thomas Huxley

Publ. By Fife Environmental Recording Network, 2004, ISBN 1 872162 21 5, 50pp, pbk £5.00

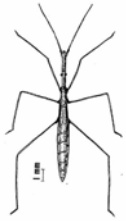
This atlas is a follow up in greater geographical detail to the 'Provisional Atlas of British aquatic bugs (Hemiptera, Heteroptera)' (Thomas Huxley 2003), published by the Biological Records Centre. It also provides more geographical detail and many additional records to that provided by 'The Distribution of Aquatic Bugs (Hemiptera-Heteroptera) in Scotland (Thomas Huxley 1997), SNH Report. The atlas is similar in structure to these publications, and has everything you would expect from a quality regional atlas. This Atlas is one of the most logically structured and practical you will come across. This is in part due to the author being almost entirely responsible for every aspect of the atlas from recording to editing. The writing style is also a little less sterile than you may be used to, and you always get a sense of the personal enthusiasm and investment made by the author, this can only serve to make the subject more interesting and involving.



The *Introduction* explains the development of the project, and includes a checklist, an introduction to water bugs, notes on identification and phenology, and description of recording methodology, logistics, and conditions. It concludes with a description of habitats, and a brief overview of freshwaters in Fife.

There are 32 individual *Species Accounts* providing information on the distribution and habitat of the species, and some helpful hints on identification. Each account includes a distribution map, species drawing, and at least one habitat photograph. The atlas includes comprehensive appendices: a gazetteer of locations and grid references, a glossary, and frequency and coincidence maps.

Everything you could want to know about a species is presented succinctly on a single page. This format really gets you involved, and the status of the water bugs in Fife becomes very real. You almost want to go out and find the location in the picture and search for a specimen straight away. Therefore, perhaps the biggest compliment to Thomas Huxley and the Atlas would be that within a couple of weeks of working with him on the atlas publication, I was kneeling beside a puddle with my newly purchased hand net in one hand and the atlas in the other.



The atlas works well on a variety of levels. It is an excellent introduction to water bugs for those with little or no knowledge of the sub-order, a comprehensive guide to the water bugs in Fife, a good record of freshwaters in Fife, and also a valuable recording aid for those interested in looking at water bugs themselves, in the field.

While the records described in the atlas are restricted to the 32 species recorded in Fife & Kinross this should not prevent anyone with an interest in water bugs or indeed natural heritage in general, enjoying the atlas immensely.

Thomas Huxley should be congratulated for his great personal investment in the atlas and its valuable contribution to the national recording community and all those with an interest in water bugs and natural heritage in general. Having had the opportunity to work with Thomas Huxley, I only hope that some of his enthusiasm and dedication has rubbed off.

Simon Scott (FERN)

Records of uncommon Heteroptera from England and Wales in 2003-2004

Jonty Denton

This note summarises my records of scarce Hemiptera-Heteroptera from England and Wales, in 2004, with one record from 2003. Records are grouped by vice-county. All dates are for 2004 except where stated.

DORSET (vice-county 9)
East Coppice, Bloxworth, SZ8994

GERRIDAE
Aquarius paludum (Fabricius) - Several adults in May, and nymphs in July, and 100s of adults by late September, on pond created in 2003. New for VC9.
STENOCEPHALIDAE
Dicranocephalus medius (Muls. & Rey) - Adults and nymphs on Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, 15 September.

NORTH HAMPSHIRE (vice-county 12)
Southwood, SU8454, 27 September

LYGAEIDAE
Lamproplax picea (Flor) - One male from tussock in damp unimproved heathy meadow, new VC record?

EAST SUSSEX (vice-county 14**)**
Broomsgrove, Hastings, TQ8210, 22.ix.2003.

PENTATOMIDAE
Holcostethus vernalis (Wolff) **-** One adult found under brambles at base of concrete wall on site of old power station, left derelict for many years.

SURREY (vice-county 17)
Brooklands Old Airfield TQ0662

BERYTINIDAE
Berytinus hirticornis (Brulle) - One male on open acid grassland, 12 April. New for VC17.
MIRIDAE
Conostethus roseus (Fallén) **-** Nymphs in late May, adults early June on Haresfoot Clover *Trifolium arvense.*

MIDDLESEX (vice-county 21)
Bushy Park (TQ1569)

REDUVIIDAE
Reduvius personatus (L.) **-** Adults and nymphs abundant in hollows and under bark on veteran oaks across the deer park, June-August.
MIRIDAE
Hypseloecus visci (Puton) **-** Adults and nymphs present in large numbers, on Mistletoe on lime and hawthorn, early July 2004. New for VC21 and south-east Britain.

SHROPSHIRE (vice-county 40)
Oswestry Old Racecourse SJ2631, 26 July

MIRIDAE
Tupiocoris rhododendri (Dolling) - Adults abundant on fruits and withering flowers of *Rhododendron ponticum* in garden.

LEICESTERSHIRE (vice-county 55)
Gaddesby SK6811, 2 August

NOTONECTIDAE
Notonecta obliqua Thunberg **-** A few adults in two silty ponds, circa 50m apart, set in pasture land. With abundant *N. glauca* L. and *N. viridis* Delcourt. VC55 is virtually devoid of typical habitat for this species.

RADNORSHIRE (vice-county 46)
Afon Rheidol SN6080, 26 July

GERRIDAE
Aquarius najas (DeGeer) **-** Adults abundant in flotillas below road bridge. Pre-1970 records only in Huxley (2003).
VELIIDAE
Velia caprai Tamanini - Surprisingly, no records for the lower Rheidol in Huxley (2003)

MONTGOMERY (vice-county 47)
47LC….N of Llyn Clywedog SN9089. 16 August
47MC…Montgomery canal, Abermule. SO1695, 16 August

HEBRIDAE
Hebrus ruficeps (Thomson) **47LC** - Abundant amongst flooded *Sphagnum* in small mire area. First modern VC record.
GERRIDAE
Aquarius najas (DeGeer) **47MC** – Adults on slow flowing section of canal.

MERIONETH (vice-county 48)
48NA….Nant y Groes SH7541, 16 August
48FR….Fridd y Fawnog. SH8537, 16 August

HEBRIDAE
Hebrus ruficeps (Thomson) **48NA, 48FR** – Abundant amongst flooded *Sphagnum,* in large mire areas. First modern VC records.

Reference

Huxley, T. 2003. *Provisional atlas of the British aquatic bugs (Hemiptera, Heteroptera)* Huntingdon: BRC.

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Water-bugs of Silvermeades Nature Reserve, Herts.

David Leeming and Judy England

Introduction

Silvermeades Marsh is located just north of London, within the Lee Valley Regional Park (LVRP). It lies between a railway line and the River Lee at Broxbourne in Hertfordshire (TL371060). It is a remnant of floodplain grassland which is being restored by the LVRP. This involves the re-introduction of grazing by cattle and some re-profiling and management work on the ditch network. The site has numbers of pollarded white willow (*Salix alba*), one of which has the largest girth of any in the county. The site is of county importance for the dragonflies it supports, but little is known about other aquatic species. Therefore, the ditch invertebrate survey was carried out using a pond net.

Results and Discussion

In the survey 124 aquatic taxa were identified to species or genus. Of this total, four species are nationally Notable (3 water beetles, 1 dragonfly) and a further 28 are regarded as Local. All the sites sampled produced standing-water species typical of drainage ditches at various stages of succession or management. A total of 15 species of water-bug were recorded but the largest group was the water beetles, 43 species, 35% of the total. In addition there were six species of dragonfly (larvae), 22 species of mollusc, and 21 taxa of Diptera.

Few riverine species were found, despite the proximity of the ditch system to the River Lee and the likelihood of periodic flooding linking ditches and river. All ditches were highly eutrophic and most were densely vegetated, some being covered in duckweed *Lemna minor*.

The aquatic Heteroptera community at Silvemeades is comparable to the post-1990 list of 19 species for ditches in the flood meadows at Rye Meads, a Site of Special Scientific Interest about 4 km upstream. However, there are a further 12 water-bug species recorded at Rye Meads pre-1972 that have not been refound there despite surveys and this might reflect the eutrophication of the whole lower Lee catchment.

Table 1

Water-bugs recorded at Silvermeades N.R.

Species	**Status**	**Common name**	**Source**
Ilyocoris cimicoides		saucer bug	1,2,3
Hydrometra stagnorum		water-measurer	1,3
Nepa cinerea		water scorpion	1,3
Gerris lacustris		pond skater	1,3
Gerris thoracicus	Local	pond skater	1
Notonecta glauca		greater water-boatman	1,2
Microvelia reticulata		small water cricket	1
Corixa punctata		lesser water-boatman	1,2,3
Sigara dorsalis		lesser water-boatman	1,3
S. nigrolineata		lesser water-boatman	1,3
S. lateralis		lesser water-boatman	1
Hesperocorixa linnaei	Local	lesser water-boatman	1
H. sahlbergi		lesser water-boatman	1,3
Callicorixa praeusta		lesser water-boatman	2
Ischnodema sabuleti		a marsh cinchbug	1

1. Leeming and England, 3rd Sept.2002.
2. Karen Gowlett, Oct 1997-Feb 1998.
3. Stuart Warrington, 2000.

Acknowledgements

This article is based on ref. 2, in which details of other taxa identified will be found.

The authors thank the Environment Agency for funding the survey, Karen Gowlett for assisting with sampling, and Karen Gowlett and Stuart Warrington for additional records. Views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Environment Agency.

References

1) Leeming, D.J., 2000, *Aquatic Invertebrate survey of Silvermeades Marsh on 3 September 2002.* Report of the Environment Agency (Thames Region).

2) Leeming, D.J., & England, J., 2004, A survey of the aquatic invertebrates of Silvermeades Nature Reserve. *Trans. Herts. Nat. Hist. Soc.,* **36(1)**, pp 93-97, 20

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Get to know your shieldbugs!!

Guide to shieldbugs of the British Isles

by **Bernard Nau**

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……or anything else you wish to share.

Exciting finds in Hertfordshire in autumn 2003

John Widgery

Introduction

I experienced an incredibly rewarding period of het fieldwork between 5 September and 6 October 2003 – effectively only two weeks as two weeks were spent out of the county. This short period saw the discovery of six particularly interesting species new to the county. The species involved were, less than a decade ago regarded as rare or extinct in Britain, one was known only as a rare migrant and others were not found here until very recently. They were all largely southern European insects. In addition, Phil Attewell sent me a number of bugs which he had found about the same time, while searching for ants, and two of these bugs are nationally scarce Lygaeidae and are new county records.

Species involved

- *Liorhyssus hyalinus* (Rhopalidae) – A male was found near Ardeley (TL3026) on 5 September in a seed-rich crop presumably grown for pheasants. The crop included sow-thistle (*Sonchus* spp.) and related lettuces (*Lactuca* spp.) which are among its known food plants. This species is widely distributed throughout much of the warm temperate world but has, until recently, been known in the UK only as a rare migrant to southern Britain. However, lately, occurrences have been increasing and during the 1990s, it has been found to be breeding in counties from Hampshire to Bedfordshire.
- *Stictopleurus punctatonervosus* (Rhopalidae) – This was considered extinct in Britain, with no records for nearly 50 years until 1997. The first record for Hertfordshire was on 9 September near Waterford (TL3215) in its typical habitat (for Britain) of weedy, waste ground with some bare earth. Since then it has been found at a further six sites in central, eastern and northern Herts with breeding proved at some. Despite searches it has not yet been found in the western half of the county. Notwithstanding the fact that I have looked for this species in the county without success over the last few years, it is surprising that it was not discovered until 2003 yet it is now widespread in the county.
- *Stictopleurus abutilon* **(**Rhopalidae**) –** This species is closely related to the former and found in similar weedy habitats. Until the mid-1990s it had not been recorded in the UK for over 100 years, but since then, like *S. punctatonervosus*, it has been colonising SE England. It was first found in Hertfordshire with that species on 9 September near Waterford (TL3215) and it has been discovered at a further three locations spread over the county, with nymphs present at one. This is another species that has yet to be discovered in the west of the county. Subsequently it turned out that a 1997 specimen I had found at North Mymms was mis-identified so the species is not strictly new to the county in 2003, but it shows how easily a species may pass undetected.
- *Nysius graminicola* (Lygaeidae) – This small seed-eating bug was first recorded in Dorset in the mid-1980s and has remained rare until the odd very recent record. I had previously come across this largely southern European species on visits to southern France so I was extremely surprised to find it on 15 September 2003 at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits (TL1905), a large area of waste ground containing a preponderance of mayweed (*Matricaria* et al.). A complication with this species is that, as on this occasion, it is likely to occur with very similar common species of *Nysius*, e.g. *N ericae* & *N senecionis* (the latter another recent addition to the British fauna). This means an adequate sample of specimens of *Nysius* needs to be taken to determine presence and suggests that it is a species that can easily be overlooked.
- *Lygus pratensis* (Miridae) – This species was regarded as nationally very local and rare as recently as Kirby (1992), but it is now not uncommon in southern England. It is very similar to other *Lygus* but larger and more elongate. The colour can be variable but it is often distinctively marked. I had been alerted to its possible presence by Bernard Nau and had been looking out for it. My first was a nymph near Ardeley (TL3026) on 5 September (grown on and confirmed later). Thereafter, up to 18 October, I found it at a further six sites across the county. Finding it at so many locations over such a short period suggests that it is now well established in the county and has, presumably, colonised very quickly.
- *Tuponia brevirostris* (Miridae) – Tamarisk (*Tamarix gallica*) is the host plant for this species and, therefore, its European stronghold is SW Europe, where the plant is native. According to Armand Matocq (via Bernard Nau), since Tamarisk started to be planted as a park or garden plant in France it has spread throughout that country. In Great Britain, however, it was not recorded until 2001. In that year many were found on a single flowering *Tamarix gallica* at Chelsea, Middlesex (VC21, TQ2976) (Barclay & Nau, 2003). The following year (2002) hundreds of individuals were beaten from the same tree but searches of other Tamarisks in Kent, Hampshire, Suffolk and Middlesex failed to produce any, except two at Fulham, Middlesex (TQ2576) (*op.cit.*). With a view to determining whether it was present in Herts, I asked a neighbour if I could examine the isolated Tamarisk tree in her garden at Potters Bar (TL2500). On 6 October 2003 I duly dislodged two

individuals from the upper foliage! Considering the sparsity of Tamarisk in the area this was rather unexpected but it raises the question as to whether it is elsewhere in the county.

- *Aphanus rolandri* (Lygaeidae) – Phil Attewell found this species on an embankment in the extreme north of the county at Slip End, Ashwell (TL2837) on 27 July 2003. This is an insect with a very thinly scattered distribution in a few southern counties, apart from a recent record in Warwickshire.
- *Raglius alboacuminacus* (Lygaeidae) – Phil Attewell discovered this species, together with the ant *Formica cunicularia*, on another embankment at Bishops Stortford (TL4922) on 13 August 2003. This is another very local insect with a southern, particularly, south-eastern, distribution.

Conclusions

It is fortunate that I carry out frequent Het surveys in the county otherwise these new species could have gone unnoticed for some years. Probably their arrival and rapid establishment is related to the warming climate. Recent mild winters and a long, hot summer in 2003 must have favoured range expansion of many warmth-loving species in southwest Europe. It will be interesting to see if they persist here in the event of a cold winter, but if present climate trends continue we ought to retain them, and gain more.

Acknowledgements

This article is based on one published in *Trans. Herts. Nat. Hist. Soc.* **36**(1), pp32-34 (2004) and thanks are due to the editor, Stuart Warrington, for making this available. Thanks must also go to Dr Bernard Nau for confirming the identification of the majority of these species

References

Barclay, M., & Nau, B.S., 2003, A second species of Tamarisk bug in Britain, *Tuponia brevirostris* Reuter, and the current status of *T. mixticolor* (A. Costa) (Hem., Miridae*). Ent. mon. Mag.*, **139**, 176-177

Hawkins, R.D., 2003, *Shieldbugs of Surrey.* Surrey Wildlife Trust, Woking.

Kirby, P., 1992, *A review of the scarce and threatened Hemiptera of Great Britain*. JNCC, Peterborough.

Moulet, P., 1995, *Hemiptéres Coreoidea Euro-Méditerranéens,* Faune de France 81, FFSSN, Paris.

Péricart, J., 1998, *Hcmiptères: Lygaeidae Euro-Méditerranéens,* Faune dc France 84A, FFSSN, Paris.

Southwood, T.R.E. & Lesion, D., 1959, *The land and water bugs of the British Isles.* Warne, London

Wagner, E. &Weber, H.H., 1964, *Héteroptères:Miridae*. Faune de France 67, FFSSN, Paris.

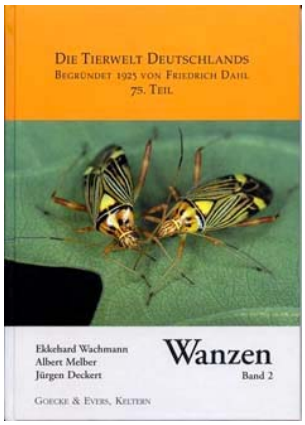
Book Review

Wanzen 2 by E. Wachmann, A. Melber, & J. Deckert

***Die Tierwelt Deutschlands 75*, 2004, published by Goecke & Evers, Keltern, Germany**

ISBN 3-931374-57-2, 245x175mm, 288pp, 266 colour photographs, hardback, £35. (In German)

This, volume 2, is the *first* volume to be published in a new well-illustrated 4-part series on the Heteroptera. This volume covers the small family (in stature & numbers) Microphysidae and the more populous Miridae family; volume 1 is promised in 2005, and is to cover a range of families that includes aquatics, saldids and anthocorids. The other two volumes are expected later. Professor Wachmann's name may be familiar to some readers for his 1989 pocket-sized book entitled *Wanzen beobachten – kennenlernen*, with about 100 pages of colour photos of Heteroptera taken from life, mainly shieldbugs and their allies, This new book includes quite a few of the same photographs, but this time beautifully printed.



Each species has a text account, typically three paragraphs. The first gives length data, world distribution, and status in Germany and Austria; another gives details of habitat and food; and the last gives information on season and overwintering. The nomenclature follows the *Catalogue of Palaearctic Heteroptera*. About one in three of the species also has a colour photo depicting a live adult in a natural setting, and for some species there are similar photos showing a nymph or a colour variant. The photos benefit from being printed on glossy paper, showing off the excellent photos to good effect. Some photos do not quite meet the standard of the best, but these are few. Most show the insect in plan view on a leaf or flower.

So much for what is included, what is omitted? The means of identifying these insects, there are neither keys nor species descriptions. Also, you cannot follow up statements made in the text as there are no references therein, although a bibliography of about 50 publications is provided at the end of the book. Oddly, too, it is quite difficult to ascertain the formal title of the book, as the title given on the title-page extends over five lines in four typefaces with no punctuation! Only the first two lines appear on the front cover. Perhaps the book will become known as 'WMD', after its authors – but an acronym of political significance of late!

For the reader in the British Isles this is not a book for the beginner, unless with a working knowledge of German, but for the heteropterist already in possession of the standard works it could be a useful, but quite expensive, addition to the bookshelf.

BSN

UK Biodiversity Action Plan – Invertebrate Review

Bernard Nau

Lists of priority invertebrate species were published in 1995 & 1998 and are now to be updated. *Buglife* is contracted to coordinate Stage 1 of this process and has asked recording schemes and societies to help. I agreed to coordinate input to Stage 1 for the Heteroptera, this will feed into various review bodies to emerge eventually as part of a new list of invertebrate Priority Species in urgent need of conservation action. All input must be with *Buglife* by **1st March 2005**.

Criteria for including a species can be one or more of the following:

1. European (and/or global) population threatened.
2. UK population declining & a significant proportion of the European population.
3. UK population declined by 50% or more over past 25 years.
4. Other extreme threats.

The current Priority List has just one species labelled 'true bug', the New Forest Cicada – not a 'true bug' anyway! This implies that Het populations must be in exceptionally good shape.

A problem I have with the way that the criteria have been applied is that species for which there is little or no information are assumed, by default, not to need any action. Surely species which are certainly rare, or worse, do need action: i.e. urgent study to find out what their status really is!

As an example, consider the Cornish dune shield-bug *Geotomus punctulatus*. It is currently known only from a matter of a few hectares, at Whitesand Bay, where it has been known since 1864. It lives in loose sand on gently sloping cliffs, under and around plant rosettes. The loose sand is mainly produced by pedestrian traffic and the limits of its range at the site are unknown. How endangered do you have to be? Then again, when did anyone see *Arenocoris waltli*, the two Kentish bark bugs *Aradus aterrimus* & *A. corticalis, Chlamydatus evanescens, Polymerus vulneratus, Eurydema dominulu*s, and the list goes on.

A different problem is exemplified by *Hydrometra gracilenta*, designated 'RDB3 it is known from a couple of places in The Broads and from Pevensey Levels in Sussex. Geoff Nobes took two of us to see it near its original Barton Broad site. He took us several 100m along a bank in Catfield Great Fen, over a dyke, diagonally through a featureless swamp for another 200m or so, and there they were (several anyway)! As we retraced our path we searched all 'suitable habitat' for more and couldn't find any. The bug clearly has some fairly specific habitat requirements, what are they? *Halticus macrocephalus* is a mirid with a similar problem. Associated with lady's bedstraw on a couple of Cornish dunes but extremely localised even in 'suitable' sites – in 1957 Woodroffe found a $1m^2$ colony!

Finally, a number of species have 'exploded' in southern England in recent years – *Stictopleurus,* various lygaeids*,* and *Lygus pratensis*, etc. Because of recent long autumns and mild winters, we presume. But what species, if any, are in danger of dropping off the other end of the British Isles?

Anyway, with your help, before March I need to compile a list of Het species which meet criteria 1 to 4, and complete a form for each to spell out in detail 'evidence of extreme threat' and action required. I will contact several of you who get about a lot but anyone else is welcome to send me comments or ideas

Web focus

Book search - http://www.abebooks.com

This site is connected to 10,000 bookshops throughout the world. Searches can be made with ease, most prices including those from British shops are priced in Dollars but there is a conversion chart. Want Adds can also be placed and as soon as a copy of the book is available you will get an Email saying where. Best of all its a free site.

Thanks to Harry Eales for that information.

NBN Gateway – www.searchnbn.net You will now find the data from the Provisional Atlas of British aquatic bugs (Huxley,2003) on the NBN Gateway along with data from other sources. You can look at distribution maps for the country as a whole, or for individual vice-counties, for any species. Unfortunately the species list has not yet been updated with new names and species.

Hopefully this will happen soon - *then you will be able to follow the spread of Ranatra to Scotland!*

Forthcoming events

Annual Exhibition of the **British Entomological & Natural History Society**
Saturday 13 November 2004, 10am – 5pm
in the **Sherfield Building** of the
Imperial College of Science & Technology
Imperial College Road South Kensington
London SW7
Many exhibits including specimens, photographs, drawings, projects, historical and local interest items. Refreshments available

Literature relating to British Heteroptera.

Bernard Nau

This list of recent publications continues from *Het News* 2 (Autumn 2003). Again, several readers have sent details of papers published in regional or local publications, these are particularly welcome as they are usually overlooked

International publications

Anon., -, 2003
Bibliography of Heteroptera in Belgium.
Internet: www.freeyellow.com/fransjanssons/Heteroptera/taxa/heteropt.html
[4-page bibliography of Heteroptera in Belgium]

Anon., -, 2003a
Bibliography of Heteroptera of Armoricain Massif.
Internet: http://hemiptera.free.fr/biblio.html
[5-page bibliography of Heteroptera in Brittany]

Aukema, B., 2003
Wantsennieuws uit Zeeland (Heteroptera).
Nederlandse Faunistische Mededelingen: **18**, pp1-16, 2003
[Distn maps: *Ceratocombus, Acalypta carinata, Neolygus, Conostethus roseus, Drymus pumilio, Emblethis spp, Gonocerus acut.* Key to *Lygocoris* (s.g. *Neolygus*) + paramere+antenna diags. Photos of *Sehirus bicolor, S. sexmaculatus, Gonacerus acut., Cerato.coleop.*]

Aukema, B., 2003b
Recent changes in the Dutch Heteroptera fauna (Insecta: Hemiptera).
Proc .Intnl. Colloquium European Invertebrate Survey: 13th, Leiden, 2-5 Sept. 2001, pp39-52
[Database holds 130,000 records of 610 spp in Netherlands. Details extinctions, new arrivals & other changes. Distn maps of: *Polym. holosericeus, Palomena viridissima, Deraeo. flav., Metapop. dit., Stict.punct., Aquarius najas*]

Inglebert, H, Matocq, A., 2003
Hétéroptère de Paris intra-muros.
L'Entomologiste: **60**(2), pp 91-93
[Adds 7 spp to make 102 spp for this locallity]

Matocq, A., 2003
Nouvelle définition et composition du genre Dasycapsus Poppius, 1912 (Heteroptera, Miridae, Phylinae).
Bull. Soc. ent. France: **108**,(1), 103-106, (2003)
[Comparative drawings of head of *Tinicephalus, Megalocoleus,Amblytylus*.]

Matocq, A., 2004a
Revue des espèces attribués au genre *Megalocoleus* Reuter, 1890 (Heteroptera: Miridae).
Ann. Soc. ent. Fr.: **40**(1), 69-101
[Types of 24 spp re-examined, various changes proposed; genus very close to *Amblytylus*. English summary.]

Matocq, A., 2004b
Données complémentaires sur le genre *Dasycapsus* (Het., Miridae).
Ann. Soc. ent. Fr.: **109** (1), p60 (2004)
[Records & map for 3 Mediterranean spp.]

Matocq, A., Kerzhner, I.M., 2003
Type specimens of some varieties described by French authors in Eurygaster (Heteroptera: Scutelleridae).
publn of Zool.Inst., St Petersburg: (no details avail.)
[Incl. 2 forms of *Eurygaster maura*]

Matocq, A., Ribes, J., 2004
Un nouveau *Dicyphus* de l'Île de Madère (Heteroptera, Miridae, Bryocorinae, Dicyphini).
Revue française d'Entomologie: **26**(1), 43-46
[*D. poneli* n.sp.;description, photos of male & female, dwgs of genitalia. Other spp from Madeira: *Kleidocerys trunculatus, Pithanus maerkeli, Lygus gemellatus*]

Møller Anderson, N., 2003
Early evolution of a unique structure: a fossil water measurer from Baltic amber (Hemiptera: Gerromorpha: Hydrometridae).
Insect Syst. Evol.: 34, 4, pp ??, 2003
[*Hydrometra* sp]

Roth, S., Remane, R., 2003
Zur Reproduktionsbiologie der Nabinae (Insecta: Heteroptera: Nabidae).
Entomologische Abhandlungen: **60**, 3-22, (2003)
[English abstract & summary]

Southwood, T.R.E., Henderson, P.A., & Woiwod, I.P., 2004
Stability and change over 67 years – the community of Heteroptera as caught in a light-trap at Rothamsted, UK.
European Journal of Entomology: **100**, pp557-561, (2003)

Viskens, G., 2003
Check list of the Heteroptera of Europe.
Internet: www.earthlife.net/insects/heteropt.html
[Errors: several shieldbug tribe names misplaced, or omitted; Anthocoridae to Nabidae precede Miridae, not as in Pal.Cat.!]

Wachmann, E., Melber, A., Deckert, J., 2004
Wanzen. band 2.
Die Tierwelt Deutschlands. **75**.Teil, book publ.by Goecke & Evers, Keltern: Band 2, (2004), 288pp, 266 colour photos,
[1st of 4 planned volumes. vol.2 covers Microphysidae & Miridae: photos from life, often excellent, but some spp only (ca 1 in 3), some colour varieties & nymphs; brief text on each spp (size, distn., status, habitat, hosts). No keys or refs in text]

Yamamoto, A., 2003
A revision of Japanese *Elasmostethus* Fieber (Heteroptera: Acanthosomatidae).
Tijdschrift voor entomologie: **146**, 49-66
[*E .interstinctus* redescribed; diags of genitalia. *Cyphostethus* is a good genus.]

National publications

Barclay, M.V.L., 2004 May 9, 2004
The green vegetable bug *Nezara viridula* (L., 1758) (Hem.:Pentatomidae) new to Britain.
Entomologist's Record & Jnl of Variation: **116**, pp55-58, (2004)
[Aug.2003, central London]

Brooke, S.E., Nau, B.S., 2003
The contrasting range expansion of two species of *Deraeocoris* (Hemiptera-Heteroptera) in south-east England.
Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.: **16**, 44-45, (2003)
[*D.flavilinea & D.olivaceus*]

Brooke, S.E., Nau, B.S., 2003a
Micronecta griseola Horváth new to Britain and further records of *Micronecta minutissima* (L.) (Hem., Corixidae).
Ent. Mon. Mag.: **139**, 229-231, (2003)

Brooke, S.E., Nau, B.S., 2003
(Fen litter & garden pond bugs.) Exhibit at 2002 annual exhibition.
Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.: **16**, p186
[*Buchananiella, Xylocoris galactinus, Lyctocoris campestris; Gerris gibbifer]*

Chapman, J.W., 2004
An aerial netting study of insects migrating at high altitude over England.
Bull. Ent. Res. [Commonwealth Institute of Entomology]: **934**,123-136, (2004)
[Cardington, Beds, 200m above ground, 1999-2002, July:, 8 bugs, spp:*Ant. nmm., Xylo.galact., Meg.rect., Pin.cerv., Orth.ten., Sig.dist.*]

Alexander, K.N.A., 2003
Calocoris alpestris (Meyer-Dür), *Lygus wagneri* Remane and *Dicyphus constrictus* (Boheman), species with boreo-montane distributions expanding in Gloucestershire.
Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.: **16**, 12-13, (2003)
[All three have increased dramatically in recent decades; found in woodland sites.]

Clemons, L., 2004
Book Reviews. 'Shieldbugs of Surrey' by R.D.Hawkins.
Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.: **17**, pt.2, p100

Denton, J. S., 2004
Empicoris baerunsprungi (Dohrn) (Hem: Reduviidae) …. in Gloucestershire.
Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.: **17**, p76

Dickson, R., 2003
(Miridae from S Hants.) Exhibit at 2002 annual exhibition.].
Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.: **16**, p186 (2003)
[*Pinalitus cervinus, Lygus rugulipennis, L. pratensis*]

Eyre, M.D., Luff, M.L., Woodward, J.C., 2003
Habitat creation favouring invertebrates: an example from Allerton Bywater, urban west Yorkshire.
Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.: **16**, pt4, 209-219
[3 spp]

Eyre, M.D., Woodward, J.C., Luff, M.L., 2004
Notes on the distribution and habitats of some species of British Hemiptera.
Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.: **17**, pp15-23, (2004)
[Cricklewood railway sidings (N.London): *Drymus pilicornis, D. pilipes, Bathysolen, Stictopleurus punct., Sciocoris cursitans, Eurygaster maura*. Co.Durham: *Trigonotylus psammaecolor* inland sand qy; *Halosalda lateralis* coast. Newtonmore: *Orthotylus fuscescens* pitfall trap riverine sediment.]

Gibbs, D., 2003
(Dorset bugs.) Exhibit at 2002 annual exhibition. *Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.*: **16**, p186 (2003)
[*Rhopalus maculatus, Macrosaldula scotica*]

Halstead, A.J., Malumphy, C.P., 2003
Outbreak in Britain of *Stephanitis takeyai* Drake & Mao (Hemiptera: Tingidae), a pest of *Pieris japonica*. *Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.*: 16, 3-6, (2003)
["Andromeda Lacebug". Photos of bug & leaf damage]

Hawkins, R.D., 2003a
(Uncommon bugs taken in recent years.) Exhibit at 2002 annual exhibition.
Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.: **16**, p186 (2003)
[*Megacoelum beckeri* – Frensham Cmn 31aug98, *Anthocoris amplicollis* – Riddlesdown 21sep95, *Psallus pseudoplatani* Sunbury Pk 21jun01 (1st British)]

Hodge, P. J., 2003
(*Nysius senecionis*) Exhibit at 2002 annual exhibition.
Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.: **16**, p186 (2003)
[On *Pulicaria dysenterica*, Pagham Hbr (Sx),7aug02]

Hollier, J., 2004
Kleidocerys ericae (Horvath) (Hem., Lygaeidae) in North Africa.
Ent. Mon. Mag.: **140**, p.246
[Records from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia]

Huxley, T., 2003
Provisional atlas of the British aquatic bugs (Hemiptera. Heteroptera).
publn of Biological Records Centre Huntingdon: 118pp, (2003)
[Footnote to checklist draws attention to *M. griseola*]

Jones, R. A. , 2003a
(Bugs from 'eco- roofs' in London.) Exhibit at 2002 annual exhibition.
Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.: **16**, 186-187
[*Chlamydatus evanescens*!, *C. pullus, C. saltitans*]

Jones, R. A. , 2003b
The 2001 Presidential Address – Part 2: A celebration of urban entomology.
Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.: 16, 109-121
[*Deraeocoris flavilinea, Stictopleurus spp.*]

Jones, R. A. , 2004
Pick of the bugs.
BBC Wildlife: June 2004
[Popular account, with colour photos, paintings of shieldbugs.]

Nau, B.S., 2003a
On confusion between *Palomena prasina* (L.) and *Holcostethhus vernalis* (Wolff) (Hem., Pentatomidae). *Ent. Mon. Mag.*: 139, p96, (2003)
[Footnote by T.R.E.Southwood]

Nau, B.S., 2003b
(Beds Het maps & tables.) Exhibit at 2002 annual exhibition.
Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.: **16**, p187.

Nau, B.S., 2004
Guide to shieldbugs of the British Isles. Field Studies Council identification guide (foldout format): 8pp
[Colour photos of most British spp , & some Coreidae; table of identification characters, habitat & range]

Warrington, S., et al., 2004
The aquatic invertebrate community of Hatfield Forest National Nature Reserve.
Ent. Mon. Mag.: **140**, pp89-96, (2004)
[16 spp of aquatic Het.]

Whitehead, P. F., 2004
Sthenarus rotermundi (Scholtz) (Hemiptera: Miridae). *Ent. Mon. Mag.*: 140, p26, (2004)
[Dead bug, Otterspool vc59, 5Aug2001; only other vc record Sefton Coast was 1960.]

Whitehead, P. F., 2004a
Selected observations on Lygaeidae (Hemiptera).
Ent. Mon. Mag.: **140**, pp 247-250
[Porton Down: *Metapoplax,Heterogaster artemesiae*; W Midlands: *Lasiosomus, Drymus latus, D.pilipes, D.pumilio, Megalo. ant., M. emarg., Peritr. lund., P. gen., Rhyparochromus, Pachybrachius fract.*]

Regional publications

Durrant, K.C., 2004
Norfolk terrestrial Heteroptera (part 3).
Trans. Norfolk Norwich Nat. Soc.: **37**(1), 9-21 (2004)
[Lists 121 spp of Miridae for Norfolk, by VC.]

Farren, W., 2004
The Hemiptera of Cambridgeshire.
Handbook to the natural history of Cambridgeshire. Ed. J.E.Marr & A.E.Shipley, CUP, Cambridge: 150-153
[ca78 spp, mostly localities only, inc: *Eurygaster maura, Sehirus dubius* (Swaffham Bulbeck), *Eurydema oleracea, Reduvius, Cimex* 3spp, *Gerris paludum* (WilbrahamTemple?)]

Howe, M.A., 2004
A provisional checklist of the invertebrates recorded in Wales. 4. True bugs (Hemiptera: Heteroptera). Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor: report, 77pp.
[Historical: recording in Wales, research & surveys; sites, habitats, conservation; extinct & overlooked spp; accounts & maps of RDB spp (not 'Notable' spp); spp needing confirmation; erroneous spp; checklist of 406 spp, 22pp of refs.]

Huxley, T., 2004
The Water Bugs of Fife & Kinross (Vice-County 85). Fife Environmental Recording Network: 50pp.

Leeming, D., England, J., 2004
A survey of the aquatic invertebrates of Silvermeades Nature Reserve, Herts.
Trans. Herts. Nat. Hist. Soc: **36**(1),93-97, (2004)
[14 aquatic Het spp + *Isch.sab.*]

Leeming, D., England, J., 2004a
An aquatic invertebrate survey of Waterend Marsh, Hertfordshire,n on 28th August 2002.
Trans. Herts. Nat. Hist. Soc: **36**(1),98-99,(2004)
[2 aquatic Het. spp]

Widgery, J., 2004
The discovery of several previously rare or extinct terrestrial bugs (Heteroptera) in Hertfordshire in a four week period, September to October 2003, plus other notable records.
Trans.Herts.Nat.Hist. Soc: **36**(1),32-34(photos p72)
[*Liorhyssus, Stictopleurus spp, Nysius graminicola, Lygus pratensis, Tuponia brevirostris, Aphanus, Raglius*).

In the next issue….hopefully!

- Some information on ***Sigara iactans*** and ***Notonecta lutea***, two water bugs, found in The Netherlands, which could easily find there way over here.
- **Shieldbug vice-county charts**……so far???

Please send contributions for the next issue by 31st March 2005

Updated keys & checklist

Over a period, I've sent my draft keys (Miridae, & aquatics+saldids) & checklist, to all who requested copies. I continually update these, adding species, refining criteria, correcting errors etc - but I don't automatically send updates. So if you have an obsolete version, or none at all, email me & I will send a pdf file of the latest version(s). In particular, the June 2004 Miridae key has some errors of its own due to a filing problem, so is best replaced. All I ask for in return is feedback and records! BSN