

INSECTS IN HAMPSHIRE, 1944.

By F. H. HAINES.

A MILD, pleasant January had not much sun, though a few sunny days occurred. It was rather windy, with gales, especially after the middle. Nights were warm, with but a few moderate frosts except at the beginning. (Rainfall, 2.77in.) February was a cold, rather dull month with some sunny days. There were many night frosts, temperature sinking to 16 degrees at times. The frequent N.E. wind accentuated the low rainfall (.60in.). A cold, grey March followed, with wind, occasionally gales, from N.-N.E. and E. This, with several rather severe frosty nights and the drought, made the season backward despite some very sunny and bright, but chilly, days. (Rainfall, .29.) April was mainly a genial, sunny month, with some dull and cold days, but little high wind. Night frosts occurred. (Rainfall moderate, 2.04in.) The May that succeeded began with good weather, degenerating into a cold, dull time, with much N.E. wind. At the end a spell of fine hot sun and warm nights came. A series of night frosts was disastrous earlier. Gales were common and rainfall (.28in.) slight. There were sunny days at the very beginning of June, then the month became, though dull, very dry and windy. Some nights were cool. (Rainfall, 2.14in.) Insects were not favoured. July proved a very dull, sunless, windy month, with a heavier rainfall (3.94in.), but insufficient to counteract the previous dryness. Temperature was low for the time of year, and conditions bad for most orders. The several sunny days of August were so mixed with dull, cool and windy ones that insects were again not abundant. The rainfall (2.72in.) was insufficient to replenish wells. Nights were often chilly. September was also largely sombre and cool, with few sunny days. The wind was often S.W. or N.W.; at times a gale. No severe night frosts, though 5 or 7 degrees were occasional. (Rainfall, 2.02in.) A good deal of dull, rainy weather marked October, with some sun, or partly sunny days, and much high and cold wind, often from N. or N.E. It was rather a cold ungenial month with some frosty nights down to 7 degrees. (Rainfall, 4.67in.) November was typical; dull, without much sun, and cold with several fairly sharp frosts at night. Some N.W. and S.W. gales and a heavy rainfall (6.62in.). A very cold December had many gloomy and foggy days between the sunny ones. At the end, especially, it was very calm; at the start a little wind, with a gale in the middle of the month. Much frost at night; on the 5th down to 9 degrees, often down to 17 degrees or lower. (Rainfall, 3.05in.) The total rainfall for the year at Appleslade was 30.84in. In 1944 there was no such

annihilating deluge as may exterminate a great part of the insect world in some years. Drought and dullness were rather the cause of abnormalities and low numbers.

Orthoptera (Earwigs, Cockroaches, Crickets and Grasshoppers). (CA) writes: "On April 22nd I went to Marlborough Deepes in search of *Tetrix* (*Acrydium*) *ceperoi* Bol. Although the day seemed perfect very few *Tetrix* could be found. They were all *subulatus* L. On May 10th *T. subulatus* was found in plenty in the marshy fields at Damerham. On July 29th, in Godshill enclosure, *Pholidoptera cinerea* (*griseo-aptera*) was present in great numbers in the grassy margins to the rides and *Omocestus ventralis* was found near Wood Green. On August 5th a nice colony of *Stenobothrus lineatus* Pz. was found on the downs near Martin, in a green coombe to the west of Fordingbridge. On September 13th they were still to be seen, but the bright colours of the female had faded." (CA) on September 11th several *Mecotethus grossus* L. were about on Linwood Bog. It was numerous in August. (F C F) took four males and one female. However poor the season for other insects, the *Orthoptera* were generally in great strength. On June 17th, among many grasshoppers developing, an adult *Omocestus viridulus* L. was seen at Appleslade. *Ectobius lapponicus* L. was in numbers on June 18th. Numbers of grasshoppers were noted on August 17th. (CA) reported *C. bicolor*, females, as plentiful on a grassy bank on October 24th, probably persisting later. On July 23rd, *Leptophyes punctatissima* Bosc. was seen on our lower, damp, scrubby ground. *Metrioptera brachyptera* L. was still common on October 14th. In *E.M.M.* I, 45, p. 8, there is a record of it near Mortimer, N. Hants. (C P) mentions the appearance in numbers of the Great Green Grasshopper (*Tettigonia viridissima* L.) about Mudeford during the summer: an unusual insect in the locality. The apparent invasion is of considerable interest. (C P) and a friend saw several.

Odonata (Dragonflies). Over a pond, near Fordingbridge, on June 14th, four or five *Anax imperator* Leach were cruising about high over the water and numbers of *L. quadrimaculata* L. were flitting about, the females ovipositing. A great display of *E. cyathigerum* was settling on the Broad-leaved Pondweed which covers much of the water. On June 17th *G. vulgarissimus* L., *A. imperator*, *C. boltonii* Don., *C. mercuriale* Charp., *A. virgo*, *P. nymphula* Sulz. and *P. pennipes* Pall. were flying at Ober Water. On July 29th *C. boltonii* was common on the Millersford Water (CA). *P. nymphula* was seen at Appleslade on April 30th and soon became common. A female *A. virgo* was seen by Dockens on 24th May, and a male was in the garden on May 28th. It was much in evidence in the Forest. On May 30th, male, female and immature *L. depressa* were about. A *C. boltonii* was found dead, probably caught by a cat, on June 6th. *Aeschna juncea* was hawking in the garden early on August 4th. *C. boltonii* was very common and *S. striolatum* Charp. was becoming so on August 6th. From August 28th onwards *A. juncea* was often seen. *A. mixta* was seen on September 9th. (F C F) was at Harn three or four times in June and July, and found *L. fulva* very common; no *O. curtisii* were met with. He saw several *A. mixta* at Bournemouth. (F C F) in *E.M.M.*, II, 45, p. 47, records *S. flaveolum* L. on September 6th, near Bournemouth. (F C F) in *E.M.M.*, VII, 44, p. 157, records *A. cyanea* Müll on June 6th at Bournemouth.

Hemiptera: Heteroptera (Bugs). I have no notes of anything of special interest at Appleslade. *Piezodorus lituratus* F., *Tropidocoris rufipes* L., and *Picromerus bidens* L. were very common as usual, with *Drymus sylvaticus* F., *Anthocoris nemoralis* F., *A. sylvestris* L. and *Phytocoris* Boh. and other common Capsidae. (B F C) writes: "A cluster of dark brown eggs on a syringa leaf hatched on July 4th; *Pentatoma* (*Palomena*) *prasina* L. is usually confined to poplar." (cf. E. A. Butler, *Biol. of Brit. Hem-Heterop.*, p. 53). In *E.M.M.*, II, 1945, p. 47, there is a record of *Elatophilus nigricornis* Zett. It was caught from *P. sylvestris*, near Brockenhurst, July, 1939.

Homoptera (Froghoppers, Cuckoo-spits, Plant-lice and Scale Insects). On May 25th *Cercopis sanguinea* was noted, especially in damp places near the brook and pond, not swarming to such an extent as often. On June 6th *Aphrophora salicis* nymphs were in evidence but, also, not at all as numerous as in the last few seasons. In the autumn the fine *Aphis*, *Melanexanthus salicis* L., was again common on *Salix cinerea* and hybrid *S. cinerea* with *S. viminalis*.

Mecoptera (Scorpion-flies). The species which in their very small way are probably of some little beneficent economic importance, owing to their carnivorous habits, in both early and late stages, were not so abundant as usual, appearing later and going over earlier, as noted on September 5th. They were not much seen before end of May. *P. germanica* was abundant on June 30th.

Neuroptera (Alder-flies, Snake-flies, Brown and Green Lacewings). *Chrysopa perla* became plentiful after the middle (18th) of May, but not perhaps as much so as usual. It was the same with the other *Chrysopa* spp., usually in swarms here. *Sialis fuliginosa* Pict. was out by the brook on May 26th, preceded by *S. lutaria* L. *Osmylus fulvicephalus* Scop. was seen here on Dockens on 31st. On August 17th, it was remarked that Neuroptera, especially Hemerobiidae, were not in normal numbers. On September 11th (F C F) took two specimens of *Eumicromus angulatus* St., but this scarce species (September 21st) does not appear as common now as it has been. On November 18th it was noticed that fewer *C. carnea* St. came indoors than in most winters, and this comparative scarcity was noticed throughout the season.

Trichoptera (Caddis-flies). *Cyrtus trimaculatus* Curt. was common here in the summer.

Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths). On January 2nd a *V. urticae* L., roused from hibernation in the house at Christmas, was moved to a cool room, resumed hibernation, and flew out normally in the spring. On February 25th, a late date, an *Operophtera brumata* L. was on a window in the morning darkness. On March 1st, *Theris rupicaparia* Hb. was seen. *Gonepteryx rhamni* L., male, was on the wing on March 17th and both sexes abundantly on 25th. I cannot but think that there is some undiscovered peculiarity in the early stages of the Brimstone, and that there is another food plant than *Rhamnus* spp., of which there is but little here, although the butterfly is so plentiful. I notice the females are apt to descend into the roots of Ivy, among moss, where there is little other vegetation than Bramble and Wood Spurge. We are reminded of *L. argiolus*, which feeds on *Hedera* and *Rhamnus*. Several *V. c-album* L. were about on March 26th when one very small dark specimen was seen. A *V. io* L., too, woke in the house and flew out into the sun. *Brephos parthenias* L. was flying on April 6th, and on 8th *Pararge aegeria* was noticed, *Pieris rapae* on 12th, and *Euchloe cardamines* L. on 26th. *Hesperia malvae* L. was out on 27th, and *Adela viridella* Scop. was in swarms over hazel, oak and other growth. *Bupalus atomarius* L. appeared on May 1st, *L. argiolus*, *P. megara* and *P. napi* L. on May 2nd, *Thecla rubi* on 5th and *Chrysophanus phlaeas* L. on 7th, when *E. cardamines* was common. *Tyria jacobaeae* was found even indoors on 11th and was soon plentiful. *Hydriomena bilineata* L. was out on 19th, when singularly a very late larva of *M. aurinia* Rott. was noted on our dry hill; no imagines had yet been seen. On 20th, *Coenonympha pamphila* L.; on 21st, *Bupalus piniarius* L.; on 22nd, *A. euphrosyne* L.; on 23rd, *Calothysanis amata* L.; on 24th *H. tages* L., *Hemaris fuciformis* L. *P. brassicae* L. were about, and *Eriogaster rubi* L. was careering in the afternoon sunshine. *Pseudopanthera macularia* L. was seen on 25th. *A. selene* Schiff., on 26th; *Plemyria hastata* L. on 27th, *M. aurinia* Rott., some males, on 28th, and a very fresh *V. atalanta* L. and *L. icarus* Rott. on 29th. Larvae of *Tortrix viridans* L. were now numerous in the New Forest; those hanging were all noticed to have a small ball of web. On June 8th *Nemotois degeerella* L. was dancing in a cloud, like *Adela viridella* Sc., amongst bushes on a dull day. The first *O. pseudo-spretella* Stt. of the year was seen in a porch at evening. They were rarer than

usual. *M. aurinia* Rott. was very scarce in a bad flying season. Walls, Heaths, and Large and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries were sparse, the weather being cloudy and windy. On June 14th *P. sylvanus* appeared, on 22nd *Epinephele janira*, on 24th a brood of *L. icarus* Rott., fresh *V. urticae* L. and *A. adippe* L., and on 27th *Limenitis sibilla* L. in Webb's Copse. On July 6th several fresh *V. c-album* were out here, on 8th *E. hyperanthus* L., on 17th *P. thanmas* Hufn., *Zygaena trifolii* Esp. and on 20th *E. tithonus* L. Fresh Commas and Peacocks were about on 28th, and fresh Brimstones on 29th. The summer brood of the Holly Blue was seen on 30th. A *Thecla quercus*, female, was taken on Rubus, amongst *Salix*, on August 1st, when *L. aegon* Schiff. was in plenty on the heaths. *Argennis paphia* L., var. *valesina*, was noted in Webb's Copse on 5th and *Crambus selasellus* Hb. was in multitudes on 17th. The Vanesses were scarce here in August. Walls were in profusion in both sexes. *V. io* came in for hibernation on 27th. A fresh brood of Wood Argus was out on September 27th. Some larvae of *Drymonia tremula* Clk. (*dictaea* Esp.) were taken here on September 11th by (F C F), and other prominents, including *N. ziczac*, at Hern. The larva of *Acronycta psi* L. was found on *Salix pentandra*. Many fresh Brimstones, male and female, were seen on 12th, and on 14th a remarkable number of quite fresh Red Admirals were on flowers at Ten Oaks. A fresh Comma was seen on 18th and others later. On October 4th *Polia ornithopus* Rott. was taken. On 8th a *P. napae*, female, was seen with the colouring of the spring brood, and a male Meadow Brown was blown, flying N., across Dockens on to Linwood Bog. On 25th *G. rhamni*, male, was on the wing in the garden. On November 20th an *Eriogaster populi* L. was at light, and on 22nd *Operophtera brunata* L. A *V. atalanta* L. was active at Ten Oaks, Linwood, on December 24th (H L). (F C F) writing on June 28th, reports having bred, at Bournemouth, many *C. elenor* L., *Cerura furcula* L. and *C. bifida* Hb., and having dug out of *Salix* the previous October ten pupae of *Trochilium crabroniforme* Lew., some of which were then emerging. (E C) reports many *Amphipyra pyramidea* L., *Smerinthus ocellatus* L. and *Trypana cossus* L. at Sway, and fewer *V. c-album* than in 1943. (A P) saw three *G. rhamni*, *V. atalanta* and *V. urticae* at Ringwood on March 17th, a fresh *P. rapae* indoors on April 19th, and many *E. cardamines* on 27th. *A. euphrosyne* was not plentiful in the New Forest on May 27th, and two *L. sibilla* were seen in the New Forest on June 17th; a few *A. paphia* and *A. adippe* were seen there on 24th and three of the var. *valesina* on July 8th. He says all the Forest fritillaries and *L. sibilla* were in less numbers than previous to 1942; *P. aegeria* and *E. hyperanthus* were in good numbers; *E. tithonus* not quite so many as usual, but *P. megaera* was plentiful. (E F C) reports *S. ligustri* and *D. porcellus* flying at Leckford on June 1st; young larvae of *Cucullia verbasci* L. were found on the same plants for the fourth year in succession; *Callimorpha dominula* L. and *Alucita galact dactyla* Hb. were flying on July 4th; a fresh *V. c-album* was visiting flowers on 13th, when fine specimens of *V. urticae* were particularly plentiful. An almost black *V. io*—under side quite black, the upper also, except for the eye, a part of one wing lost—was noticed on August 17th, and a *Hepialus vellea* Hb. (*fusco nebulosa*) was on a window. *T. jacobaeae* L., larvae, were going down; they were in nothing like the quantities seen in 1943. Comma larvae were about half grown on September 9th. *C. edusa* was flying on 11th, one *C. hyale* L. was seen; *G. rhamni* was flying on 13th and young larvae of *Odonestis potatoria* L. were found on rough grass. Numerous full-fed buff-tip larvae and a few small ones were seen on October 1st, and Goat Moth larvae at Longstock. Full-fed *Colocasia coryli* L., larvae, were taken on apple. Both the green and grey varieties of the larvae of *Dasychira pudibunda* L. were full-fed and abundant on October 7th. Fresh *P. gamma* were at flowers on 19th, and full-fed larvae of *Odontotia camelina* L. were going down. Very few *M. stellatarum* L. were about in 1944. A fresh *Melanchra nebulosa* Hufn. was on a window pane on November 12th. These moths must be double-brooded though this is not mentioned in the books. A very battered November Moth was found in ice on a bird bath on November 16th; carried

into the house it was still active when the ice had thawed. A Goat Moth larva was found wandering on the road on December 1st. (CA) took *Heliothis dipsacea* L. on July 13th on a common near Sandleheath and on the downs near Martin found *L. corydon* Pod. on the wing on August 5th and many *Pamphila comma*. On October 24th, at Sandleheath, only numerous *Comistra vaccini* L. were found on Ivy blossom at night. (H L) says that a *V. urticae* was flying on March 12th at Linwood, *G. rhamni* and *V. atalanta* on 17th, *P. rapae* on 21st, two *V. c-album* and *V. io* on 25th, *L. argiolus* on April 22nd, and *E. cardamines* on 26th. (A B) found 1944 a poor season, beginning well but ending badly. He saw *G. rhamni* flying about near Ivy in beautiful sun on January 14th, another, with *V. urticae*, on March 17th, the first *B. parthenias* on 23rd, and one sat feeding on Sallow on April 1st. Many *V. urticae*, *G. rhamni*, both sexes, *V. io* and *V. c-album* were flying about in the warm sun on March 26th; two *Saturnia pavonia* L. were flying on the common on April 22nd and *L. argiolus* and *T. rubi* on 27th. He saw some very wildly flying *B. rubi* on the common on May 12th. On May 12th he caught *T. rubi*, *B. rubi* at 5 p.m. (G.M.T.) and *H. fuciformis* on a *Daphne cheorum* in garden at 5.15 p.m. (G.M.T.) which was very late on the wing! *B. rubi* has been prolific, *S. pavonia* scanty. He took some *Nemobius lucina* L. on June 1st and later, in an open locality with no wood within 1½ miles, but the food plant present. Sir R. Saundby made the record on May 30th. *A. selene* was in great numbers on June 3rd. *A. plantaginis* L. *L. minimus* Fu., the confluent var. of *Z. trifolii* Esp. were all on the downs on June 6th, several *L. minimus* on 14th and *P. statice* L., which had not been seen near Burghclere before. The best year remembered for the *Zygaenidae*. *L. sibilla* appeared on June 24th, and *A. paphia* on July 6th. Of four very small *P. aegon* Sch. a female was partially suffused on the wings with blue (? *ab. masseyi*). He saw *M. stellatarum* on 12th and 13th July on lavender: very few this year. On July 19th a fine *A. caja* L. was brought to (A B) who had seen none for years. *T. quercus* L. was in great numbers on an ash tree, but all, apparently, males; on July 24th and later, females appeared on an ash sapling hedge with males. Several *L. argiolus* were about. *L. corydon* Pod. appeared on August 9th. Not a single *C. edusa* F. has been seen, nor any *A. aglaia* L. (A B) draws attention to *The Field* of September 9th, 1944, which recounts that a Brown Hairstreak was trapped in a rotten apple found August 27th. The plum trees present would probably serve as food plant, sloe being absent. (S G C R) *Entom.* IV, 1944, p. 63, says on a common at Alton he has seen *T. betulae* feeding on blossom of Hemp Agrimony. It is rarely seen on the wing elsewhere. Miss Gibson says, on a common near Petersfield, they may be seen in numbers on Bramble blossom any sunny day in August, on p. 60, *loc. cit.* Capt. E. R. Goffe speaks of the extension of *P. aegeria* to King's Somborne: an extension in the county noted by others. In the migration records, p. 55, there are records from Hampshire, continued in *Entom.* V, 1944, p. 73. In the *Entom.* VI, 1944, p. 96 (A B) writes on the spread of *P. aegeria* about Burghclere. In *Entom.* VII, 1944, p. 100, there are Hampshire records (of 1943) by C. G. M. de Worms. In *Entom.* VIII, 1944, p. 122, there are records of *C. croceus* (*edusa*), which note a male caught by C. Letcher on June 17th at Ringwood. In *Entom.* IX, 1944, p. 140, there is a record of *H. pinastri* in the New Forest. In *Entom.* X, 1944, p. 154, of *Pieris daphnide* L., a perfect male, at Gosport; p. 157, *Celerio euphorbiae* L., near Farnborough; *A. euphrosyne*, *ab. zanthos*, at Bishopstoke; p. 158, *P. aegeria* at Petersfield and Bishop's Waltham and note of *L. argiolus*; p. 159, *H. pinastri* at Otterbourne. In *Entom.* XI, 1944, p. 171, various Hampshire records of *H. pinastri*. *Entom.* XII, 1944, p. 191, *L. argiolus*, the abundance of the summer brood in N.E. Hampshire. *Entom.* I, 1945, p. 5, *L. baetica* L., at Bournemouth; p. 14, *C. gnaphalii* Hb., at Bishop's Waltham. *Journal of Soc. for Brit. Entom.* (November, 1944, p. 219) records on June 16th, 1943, at Ringwood, *Celerio lineata livornica* Esp., female, fair condition, found resting in a wooden shed in the afternoon. See also p. 223 for Hampshire records. *E.M.M.* VII, 1944, p. 157 (F C F) records a male *H. pinastri* on May 12th at Bournemouth.

Coleoptera (Beetles). On April 13th the sunny 20th of May and on October 14th specially, many "Sunshiners" were in evidence here: *Pterostichus* spp. and *Amara* spp., especially *P. cupreus* L. On May 1st *Staphylinus* (*Ocypus*) *olens* Ml. was about in Appleslade Inclosure. *Geotrupes pyrenaicus* Cr. was found dead on May 8th, and another alive on 11th. *Carabus granulatus* L. was common on 12th. Many beetles were about on June 2nd, such as *Clytus arietis* L. and *Molochrus umbellatarum* Shb. *Elater sanguinolentus* Sk. was quite common in June. On July 1st *Coccinella 7-punctata* L. was noted as extremely common. On August 17th it was observed that *Aromia moschata* L. was entirely absent and this beetle, generally so abundant here, never appeared the whole season. *Carabus catenulatus* Sp. was still about and active on the heaths on November 30th. (H L) noted *Cicindela campestris* L. and *C. 7-punctata* L. on March 20th. (C A) found *Carabus nitens* L., among heather, at North Hollow Bridge, Linwood, on April 8th. *Pterostichus coerulescens* L. (*versicolor* Sturm) was common here and in the N.E. on May 29th. *Hylastes ater* Payk. was observed on March 31st, indoors. *Apion ulicis* Fo. was found, indoors, on December 26th, 1943, at Appleslade. A larval *Lampyris noctiluca* L. was in the garden on May 6th. The species has been remarkably scarce here for the last year or two.

Diptera (Flies). *Servillia ursina* Mg. was common in Webb's Copse and here on March 25th, and *Eristalis pernix* Scop. had been hovering daily in numbers, especially in woody places, by the 26th. *S. ursina* was very common here on 28th, persisting well into April. The small var. of *Bombylus major* was common, as usual, in Webb's Copse, on April 27th. *Mesembrina meridiana* L. was on tree trunks, palings and elsewhere, here and over the N.E. on 29th. *Bibio marci* L. was swarming here and at Ringwood on May 11th, but it was seen on 14th that they were in far less numbers than usual. On May 23rd *Microdon mutabilis* L. was out on swampy ground and was very common on certain days later on. *Leptis scolopacea* L. was also getting frequent and *Empis tessellata* F. was now in numbers. *Dioctria rufipes* Deg. was numerous on 29th. *Merodon equestris* F., especially var. *narcissi* F., was getting common on our bulb beds on 30th, when *Microdon* sp. was very plentiful on the lower ground in the morning, completely disappearing later, when a wind had sprung up and a haze had dulled the hot sun. On 31st a male *Theriopterus distinguendus* Verr. was hovering early at exactly the same spot, opposite an arch, that its predecessors have haunted, year after year. Why this choice of the same spot by widely separated generations of the males of the species, again and again? A few *Microdon* sp. were about and also *Tabanus maculicornis* Zett. and species of Chrysops. *C. quadrata* Mg. was specially noted on August 28th. Dr. B. M. Hobby draws my attention to my entry 16, VIII, 43, and points out its interest, as ants are so rarely taken by the *Asilidae*. I believe the *Asilid* was *Machimus atricapillus* Flin. and the ant *Acanthomyops niger* L., but the pair dropped and was lost. On June 2nd, and later, *Leucozona lucorum* L. was common. On June 5th *Merodon equestris* was very numerous again, when *T. maculicornis* was noted basking in the sun on the house, and *Anthrax fenestratus* Flin. on its favourite bits of path. On June 15th, Dr. C. D. Day came with a fly trap baited with snail: three interesting *Sarcophaga* were taken and some *Lucilia*, including male and female *ampullacea* Vill. *Echinomyia grossa* L. was becoming very common Heracleum on July 3rd and was joined now and in later summer, by *Fabricia ferox* L. and *E. fera* L. On July 20th *T. distinguendus* still hovered in the same place in the garden. On 26th *Anthrax fenestratus* Flin. was noted on rough, damp ground near the brook. *Xanthogramma ornatum* Mg. was in evidence on 27th; it occurs throughout the summer; the rarer *X. citrofasciatum* is noted in May and June. *Tabanus sudeticus* Zlr. was rather conspicuously present on August 6th. *Myopa* spp. were very common round about August 8th. There was a great invasion of *Musca corvina* L. (Raven Fly) into the house, an outdoor room, and especially its porch, on October 8th. The swarm gradually disintegrated, many dying and only a very few appearing to survive to the spring. *Ischyrosyrphus later-*

narius Mull., especially males, were on Angelica in some plenty on August 9th. On July 28th *Neuroctena anilis* Flin. came indoors to light. *Chamaepsila* (*Psila*) *pallida* Flin., a pair, male and female, were indoors near light on June 17th. *Phormia coerulesa* R.-D. (= *groenlandica* Zett.) was indoors on August 7th. *Ernestia rudis* F. was common here in May and June, and two were taken. *Sarcophaga incisilobata* Pand. was seen. On 15th *S. scoparia* Pand., *Lucilia caesar*, two males, *L. sericata*, male and female, and *S. aratrix* Pand., male, were caught.

Hymenoptera (Sawflies, Gallflies, Ichneumon-flies, Ruby-tailed Flies, Ants, Sand Wasps, Wasps and Bees). Many Hive-bees were very active on January 29th. A *Vespa germanica* F., hibernating in a porch, was found dead on February 20th. *Salix viminalis* catkins on March 24th had many Hive-bees on them, perhaps a few *Andrena albicans* K., but little else. On April 5th a *Bombus Terrestris* L. was seen entering its burrow in the garden. Both *B. terrestris* and *B. lucorum* L. were on *Salix* on 6th, as was male *A. albicans*. Andrenas of the *minutula* group were seen on 9th. *Odynerus parietinus* L. was prospecting for a nest on 11th and on 13th *Odynerus* spp. were again active on woodwork. *Andrena thoracica* F. and others were on *S. repens* on 23rd, also *Bombus* spp. On 25th *B. agrorum* F. appeared, and on 26th *B. muscorum* K. and *A. thoracica* and others were again on *S. repens*. A *Vespa* sp. was seen at Ringwood on May 10th and (C.A.) reported *V. crabro* L. at Fordingbridge on 11th. On 20th several *Priocnemis* spp. were about. On 22nd a queen *V. rufa* L. was busy nesting. Many *Chrysis ignita* were about after the middle of May. The scarcity of bees, including *Bombus*, and other Hymenoptera was now very apparent. A chrysid, perhaps *Hedychridium coriaceum* Dhb., was examining the stem of *Pyrus intermedia* here. *Sirex gigas* was abundant in the Forest neighbourhood, occurring all over Linwood and elsewhere. On 30th it was noticed that many bees were frequenting the honey-dew from aphides, which crowded the end of the young shoots of hawthorn: Hive-bees, *Bombus helveranus* Seidl., *B. terrestris*, *B. pratorum* L., and others, at evening. On June 2nd the braconid *Pygostolus sticticus* Nees was taken. Another great gathering of bees on the honey-dew, on the hawthorn occurred in the evening, *B. agrorum* and *B. lucorum* being also noticed on it. *Eumenes coarctata* L. was seen on 6th, and several *B. myscorum* on 14th. *Andrena cingulata* F. was noted on 18th, *B. sylvarum* L., female, on Rhododendron on 22nd. *Vespa norvegica* F. was on Rhododendron and Rubus on July 3rd. *Sirex gigas* emerged from Larch at Ten Oaks on July 20th (H.L.). Species of *Magachile*, including *M. ligiseka* K., were showing on 23rd. On 27th wasps seemed fairly plentiful, but insects were still generally scarce, the weather being very dull and sunless. On 28th, it noted that *Cilissa leporina* Pz. appeared fairly common here, this summer, again. *Megachila* spp. were common through August, and on 4th wasps were quite numerous. On 6th great numbers of *Odynerus* spp. were about, investigating cracks and crannies in woodwork and appropriate resorts, in marked contrast to the scarcity of many insects this season. Its parasite, the chrysid, was not so common now as usual. Many males of *Ichneumon* were very abundant at this time, flying over and among low herbage. On 8th strong colonies of *Saropoda bimaculata* Pz. had been established for the last week or two. *Ichneumonidae*, except males of the type genus, appeared generally very scarce on Angelica and other flowers. Sawflies, too, were usually scarcer than customary, though a few *Tenthredo* and *Allantus* spp., *Selandria* spp. and *Athalia* spp. were sprinkled on the Angelica blossoms. On 9th *Mutilla europaea* L., female, was met with at Rockford, and it was present in both sexes at Appleslade. There would appear to be two distinct emergences of *Chrysis ignita* in the year, perhaps synchronous with a similar character in the hosts, whose times of appearance occasionally suggest it. *C. ignita* was still curiously scarce. On August 14th it was astonishing how much rarer than customary was the abundant *Crabro cribrarius* L. on the Angelica. Wasps were now fitfully common again, especially *V. rufa*, and on 17th *V. sylvestris* was plentiful, also on Angelica. Ichneumons and other

insects were in better numbers than on any day this season, but even so, not abundant. On 26th Hornets were remarked as scarce. On 21st September *Bombus* spp. were still frequently about, especially *B. agrorum*, as were still some *Odynerus* spp. An *Ophion* (*obscurus* F.) came into light on the very warm evening of November 18th. The following Hymenoptera may also be mentioned, either for their numbers or other interest: (*Sessiliventes*) *Sirex gigas* L. very common in New Forest. *Arge* (*Hylotoma*) *cyano-rocea* Forst. was present here on May 31st and *Dolerus oblongus* Thoms. on 30th. (*Ichneumonidae*). *Acrorienus macrobatus* Gr. very abundant in both sexes on August 17th and other dates. *Lissenota sulphurifera* Gr. was common about May 31st. *Polychistus mansuetor* Gr. came indoors to light on September 11th. *Ophion marginatus* Jurine was taken from oak and given to me by Dr. C. D. Day, on Powerstock Common on May 27th. It is new to my 1931 *List of Ichneumons of Dorset and Hampshire*, pub. by Soc. for Brit. Entom. (C M) says there are six specimens without data in the British Museum, and he can find no note of capture. Probably the B.M. examples were also taken in Dorset, by the Dales: this is likely as the species is mentioned in Curtis's *British Entomology*, but as occurring "among pines." (*Proctotrypidae*). A (?) *Belyta forticornis* Cam. occurred here on September 11th. (*Fossore*). *Mimesa bicolor* F. was found on Angelica on August 17th and *Rhopalum tibiale* F., indoors, on August 1st. (*Anthophila*) *Megachile centuncularis* L. was very common round about June 7th and *M. ligniseca* about August 1st. (E F C) writes that she saw *Osmia bicornis* L. (*rufa* L.) flying at Leckford on June 1st. On 16th *Anthidium manicatum* F. was collecting down from Cat's Ear: a few come every year. On September 9th queen wasps were flying. On 19th larvae of *Allantus flavipes* Curt. were nearly full fed on Figwort. On 29th larvae of *A. marginellus* Kl. were fairly plentiful on Bog Mint, mostly nearly full-grown, but some quite small. (G L) recorded a Humble bee (probably *B. lucorum*) flying at Linwood on March 12th. Hive-bees were working Ivy on November 18th, when a queen wasp was seen in heather. Most of my correspondents did not, apparently, meet with the Hornet in exceptional numbers, rather the reverse. (C A) found *Andrena fulvicrus* K. flying in multitudes at their Sandleheath colony on April 8th. On July 2nd many *Bombus lucorum* and *B. pratorum*, workers, were on Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum*) near Sandleheath, among which he took a male *Psithyrus quadricolor* auct. (*sylvestris* Lebel) and another on August 30th at Damerham. On July 13th he found on a sunny bank near Fordingbridge, a very large colony, extremely active, of *Saropoda himaculata* Pz. *B. soroensis* F. was taken on August 30th at Sandleheath. In *E.M.M.* XII, 1944, pp. 272, 290, 293 and 295, the abundance of wasps is discussed, and the influence of wet weather, with the incidence of *Volucella* spp.

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