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**VALEDICTION!**

Ten years have passed since the first Issue of the 2nd Series of *Het News* saw the light of day & this seems an appropriate moment to announce that the present issue is the last that we shall produce! Our sincere thanks go to all who have shown an interest in *Het News* and especially the many contributors - without your articles and notes over the years there could not have been a newsletter. Thank you!

By coincidence the *Het News* website ([hetnews.org.uk](http://hetnews.org.uk)) is also undergoing a major change. Hitherto the website has been hosted on a server made available through the good offices of Julian Cole, who has also done the website layout. He is now transferring it to the Biological Records Centre's website, which will host & manage it in future. This is why you may not have found the site if you looked for it recently. When it is available on its new host we will notify by email those of our readers who registered to receive emails from us.

*Het News* was (is) a private venture. We didn't know what to expect when we launched it as a free downloadable publication. In the event it was well received & has a circulation of 200+, quite respectable for such a specialised publication. This includes a considerable international readership.

What is the future of *Het News*? We don't know! It depends on one or more volunteers stepping forward to take over the job of rounding-up, editing & organising material for future issues.

BSN has done most of the editing & layout over the years, on various Apple Macintosh computers. Initially Microsoft *Word* software was used but this was frustratingly quirky, so we switched to Adobe *InDesign*, which does a fine job but is expensive. The current issue was produced experimentally using Apple's *Pages*, an inexpensive desktop publishing package. This has done the job as well as *InDesign* - spot the differences, if you can!

In conclusion, we are happy to offer guidance & advice but the future of *Het News* is in your hands.

Sheila Brooke & Bernard Nau
This recent publication by the Entomological Society of Stockholm provides a handy pocket sized guide to the Pentatomoida of Sweden, accompanied by excellent colour photographs of each species and variable species such as Piezodorus lituratus are covered by several photos. For some species nymphs are also shown, providing a useful guide to some species but caution is needed as not all species are shown; so for rarer, closely related species, satisfactory identification is unlikely. The coverage includes all known species of Pentatomoida in Sweden in the families Acanthosomatidae, Cynidae, Pentatomidae, Scutelleridae & Thyreocoridae, comprising a total of 53 species. For each treated species a brief description (Beskrivning) is given, similar species noted (Likande arter), distribution (Utbredning) in Sweden (including a small distribution map), notes on ecology (Levnadssätt) & life cycle (Livscykel).

All eight European species of Acanthosomatidae occur in Sweden and the photographic keys which separate the closely related species of Elasmostethus are extremely useful. The juniper shieldbug Cyphostethus tristriatus in common with the situation in Britain is now found on a range of cypress species in Sweden, having been formerly confined to Juniperus spp. Eight species of Cydnidae occur in Sweden, all except Sehirus morio & Microporus nigrita also occurring in Britain, & both of these species are rare in Sweden, with M. nigrita found in only four sites & not recorded since 1953. The very recent British colonist Tritomegas sexmaculatus has not yet been recorded in Sweden & our rarest species, Geotomus punctulatus does not occur in Sweden.

Sweden has a more diverse scutellerid fauna than Britain, a total of six species compared with four extant species in Britain. The Swedish fauna includes two species of Phimodera, including one of the few arctic-alpine species of shieldbug in Europe, Phimodera lapponica & is useful for determining all species of Scutelleridae which currently occur in Britain. Eurygaster austriaca, long extinct in Britain and not found in Sweden, is not included.

The Swedish Pentatomidae fauna is far more diverse than in Britain & include 30 species, although recent colonists to Britain such as Rhaphigaster nebula & Nezara viridula are not yet present in Sweden, but almost all rare & extinct species in Britain are fully illustrated such as Chlorochroa juniperina, Jalla dumosa & Peribalus strictus vernalis, as well as the recent British colonist Eurydema ornata, all of which still occur in Sweden.

One of the most valuable aspects of the book is the slightly enlarged photo page of all the species of Pentatomoida which occur in Sweden, enabling rapid placing of the species, which can be checked against the photographically illustrated keys at the beginning of each family section, or in some cases genera (for Sciocoris & Aelia). Overall an extremely useful guide to this group even if Swedish is not your first language, as the excellent photographs throughout make it a ‘must-buy’-and is excellent value too.

Alex Ramsay
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Supplement for the Palaearctic Catalogue:

Volume 6 of the Catalogue of the Heteroptera of the Palaearctic Heteroptera has been published. It is a supplement to volumes 1-5 (i-xxiii, 1-629 pages), covering the literature up to and including 2011.

Price: 30 Euro + postage.
Series subscribers will get a pro-forma invoice & receive the book after payment.
Others can order a copy from:

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On 24th June 2011, Jean Péricart left us. At an age of a little over eighty-three, he succumbed to the effects of a stroke which laid him low in autumn 2010, after a life of exceptional entomological achievement. The *Nouvelle Revue d’Entomologie* had marked his eightieth birthday by dedicating an issue to him (volume 25, part 3, of 28 August 2009).

Attracted to entomology from his earliest years, he took his first steps in the company of his brother & under the guidance of Hustache (a weevil specialist), which led him to concentrate at first on the weevils but then gradually, during the fifties, on the Heteroptera which remained his field of study until the end.

His education, very successful in spite of difficult conditions, gave him the engineering diploma of the *École Supérieure d’Électricité*, and, after military service, he joined *Électricité de France* where he made a career as a research worker & then adviser on nuclear matters to the Director of Study & Research.

His marriage to Monique produced six children. It was therefore as an amateur that he pursued his entomological studies, which makes the size of his achievement even more astounding.

His bibliography consists of more than 150 publications, of which the most important are the ten faunal works that he left us, from that on Anthocoridae published by Masson to the one on Pentatomidae: Podopinae & Asopinae (*Faune de France*, 93), his final work, which appeared at the beginning of 2010.

But Jean Péricart did not limit himself to systematic studies, but worked just as determinedly at promoting entomology, at first through involvement in the management of the *Société Entomologique de France*, of which he was twice president, in 1975 & 1985, & then general secretary from 1990 to 1996. He left his imprint there, for example by revitalising activities & contributing to the formation of the U.E.F. (*Union de l’Entomologie Française*). But, above all, he revived the series *Faune de France*, dormant since 1966, by finding a sponsor, a base at INRA Montpellier, & directing activities for more than twenty years. Thanks to his actions, the series has already been enriched by twenty-five titles & more continue to be added at the rate of one or two a year.

Finally, he would always find time to assist beginners in entomology, & helped to train many of us, particularly during the field trips that he considered essential for becoming a competent entomologist, & which he undertook as long as his health permitted.

Entomology has just lost one of its own, who gave a new meaning to the word ‘amateur’, & we have lost a master & a good friend.

Bulgarian shieldbugs in the southwest mountains & Black Sea coast, June 2012
Alex Ramsay

Attendance at the 6th European Hemiptera congress at Blagovegrad on the 25th-29th June 2012 enabled me to spend some time familiarising myself with the shieldbugs of Bulgaria. Mikael Josifov wrote the definitive guide to shieldbugs in Bulgaria under the Fauna Bulgarica series (Josifov, 1981) & includes all species known to occur in Bulgaria. Bulgaria contains one of the richest Pentatomid faunas in Europe, with many species occurring at the western limits of their range in Bulgaria.

The conference at Blagovegrad in southwest Bulgaria was easily reachable by train from Sofia, providing a relaxing start to the conference, & was well attended with many delegates from all parts of Europe. Mid week was the event some of us at least had been waiting for—the field trip to the mountains of southern Bulgaria. The excursion began at Kreshna gorge, with a mass exodus from the bus & every hemipteran group rapidly collected. Over 400 species of Heteroptera have been recorded from the gorge, including 12 species for which the gorge is the type locality.

Some of the highlights here were non-hemipteran & included an adult of the spectacular predacious bushcricket *Saga natoliae*, which was photographed numerous times 'paperazzi' style, & several *Palpares libelluloides*, a large ant-lion with distinctly spotted wings, which in contrast proved frustratingly difficult to photograph.

After our morning session we adjourned to a picturesque restaurant where the owner generously supplied all of the participants with a bottle of locally produced red wine following an excellent lunch.

The afternoon session began in the Rohzen monastery, where we were fortunate to be given a blessing for our endeavours by the local monk. The dry grasslands in this area (Figure 1) provided numerous exciting species of shieldbug including *Codophila lunulata*, *Codophila varia*, *Staria lunata*, *Sciocoris sulcatus*, & *Stagonomus bipunctatus* with only a few sweeps of the net. Some of us embarked on a trek south from the monastery through the spectacular scenery of the Melnishki Piramidi, collecting on the way. The large predatory *Jalla dumosa*
(Figure 2) was recorded by early collectors on the track, but a good range of species was still recorded by sweeping, including a range of Aelia species & the ever ubiquitous Piezodorus lituratus & Dolycoris baccarum, both swept from a species of tall legume which grew plentifully at the margins of the sandy tracks through the gorge.

On arrival in Melnik at the end of the trek, in the town square a specimen of the largest European shieldbug, Mustha spinosula was recorded - this handsome species occurs only within the Balkan peninsula in Europe, & is likely to have derived from the immense Plane tree which dominated one side of the square.

As a follow on, a trip to the Black sea coast by overnight train provided an opportunity to sample coastal species, the highlight of which was the locating a few specimens of one of Europe’s most unusual & rare cydnids, the chestnut brown Stibaropus henkei (Figure 3), which is associated with marram grass tussocks on foredunes. After much digging (adults & nymphs can be found up to 0.5m below tussocks) a few specimens were eventually located by their distinctive ‘bug’ smell on the dunes at Akrotiri to the south of Sozopol. There are sadly very few places where this distinctive species can now be found along the Black Sea coast due to obliteration of its coastal habitats by unrestricted development.

Elsewhere along the coast it was unusual to see both Graphosoma lineatum italicum & G. semipunctatum in close proximity, although G. lineatum was confined to umbellifers growing in woodland clearings, whilst G. semipunctatum could be found on umbellifers growing on exposed coastal grassland (Figure 4). The juxtaposition of habitats in close proximity meant that both species could be located within 100m. Other coastal shieldbugs recorded in coastal areas (although not confined to coastal areas) included Ancyrosoma leucogrammes, both adults & nymphs frequent in wild carrot umbels, & Pscasta exanthematica equally common on Echium spp. Specimens of Nezara viridula were recorded on thistles in the remnant hind-dunes at Sozopol, a species which has apparently only recently become established in Bulgaria, but is now widespread in many parts of Bulgaria (Simov et al. 2012).

Acknowledgements
My thanks to Nikolay Simov for providing much useful information on Bulgarian shieldbugs, especially on locating Stibaropus henkei, & to Susanne Grube for allowing me to photograph Jalla dumosa.

References
Chalara dieback of ash trees (Fraxinus excelsior) is a serious disease of ash trees caused by the fungus Chalara fraxinea. It causes leaf loss & crown dieback in affected trees, & usually leads to death of the tree. Infected Ash trees have been found widely across Europe since 1992 & include forest trees, ornamental trees in urban parks & gardens, & young trees in nurseries.

In February 2012 it was found for the first time in the UK, in a consignment of trees sent from a nursery in the Netherlands to a nursery in Buckinghamshire.

By October 2012, the Food & Environment Research Agency (FERA) had confirmed cases in Norfolk & Suffolk which did not appear to be associated with nursery stock. These cases were in ash trees in the wider natural environment, including established woodland. Further similar finds have since been confirmed in Norfolk & Suffolk & in Kent, Essex & other counties.

There is concern that this disease may seriously reduce the Ash tree population, as happened to Elm trees (Ulmus spp) in the 1970s due to another fungal disease which spread rapidly across Britain.

In view of this situation it seems useful to note the Heteroptera species associated with Ash trees. I therefore compiled the following species notes, mainly from the literature.

(The introductory notes above were compiled from the Internet by BSN)

TERMINOLOGY
The terms listed below are used with special meanings on the line following each bug species’ heading, they are defined as follows:

Ash: “sole foodplant becomes extinct if ash becomes extinct (in a district or nationally).”

Ash important: “main foodplant, or only 1 or 2 other options, if present in a district”

Ash significant: “one of a limited number of alternatives so bug unlikely to face extinction in a district. Invertebrate populations would decline in abundance in woods/districts where ash is currently the predominant tree species.”

MIRIDAE

Brachynotocoris puncticornis
Ash.
Adult July- August. Recent arrival in Britain.

Psallus flavellus
Ash.
Adult mid July. Widespread & common.

Psallus lepidus
Ash.
Adult mid June- early September, possibly as 2 generations. A brachonid is a parasite of nymphs. Widespread & common.

Orthotylus tenellus
Oak. Also ash & hazel, partly predaceous. Adult late June- August. Feeds especially on catkins. Widespread, common.

Orthotylus nassatus

Pseudoloxops coccineus

Pinalitus cervinus
Lime & ivy. Less numerous on ash, hazel,. Adult late July-early September, probably as 2 generations.

Phytocoris tiliae
Polyphagous. Especially on ash, oak, lime & apple. Mainly predaceous, feeding on such as caterpillars, ladybird pupae & red spider mites, & are well camouflaged. Eggs overwinter on young wood of the host tree, & hatch the following early June to early August; adults can be found from the end of June to late October. Adults late July-October. Widespread & common.

Phytocoris populi
Polyphagous. Mainly on poplar; occasionally ash, oak, alder. Adults & larvae are mainly predaceous, feeding on bark-lice & plant-lice on trunks & twigs, & are well camouflaged. Adults late July- October. Widespread.

Tropidosteptes pacificus
Ash. Adults in two generations, June & September. First reported in 2012, north London. A North American species that in now breeding in Britain (and likely to become permanently established as part of the British fauna).

ANTHOCORIDAE

Anthocoris amplicollis
Ash. Rarely on other trees. Mainly found in a small area of the southern edge of the N York Moors; also Northants & Surrey.

Anthocoris simulans
Ash. Occasionally wych elm & maple. Common on ash. First recognised in Britain in 1954 (as minki), now widespread.

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New Irish Hemiptera checklist:
An annotated checklist of the Irish Hemiptera & Small Orders.
Irish Biogeographical Society, 151pp.
It is a few years since I reported on Heteroptera in Ireland for HetNews & the following is a very selective account of the events of significance over the last 3-4 years. In general progress remains painfully slow - there simply are too few active Heteropterists in Ireland & I would like to avoid summarising my own efforts.

The first item is to report that there is now no entomological expertise in any Irish museum. This is perhaps of peripheral interest & is not unique to Ireland, but it does have inevitable consequences on maintenance & access to collections. & it also makes it difficult to persuade people that vouchers should be kept & placed in an accessible collection (something that I would demand as a condition of a contracted piece of work). Whether this will be rectified soon is unlikely given the current funding climate.

To balance this negative item, there have been a few positive developments which hopefully will increase interest in the group & develop more expertise:

1. Online availability of all the Irish Heteroptera records:

These are available through the website of the Irish National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) based in Waterford. [www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie). Some 10000 records are available from the whole island of 282 species. The database is maintained by myself for the NBDC & it is hoped that annual updates will be made. Aquatic species dominate the database, & there is much potential for improved coverage of terrestrial & arboreal species. There are some interesting statistics displayed on the system (choose the browse datasets option).

2. Training courses.

I held one on aquatic & semi-aquatics at the NBDC in 2011 & more may be held in 2013. One on shieldbugs & perhaps an introductory one on to the Heteroptera in general have been suggested.

3. A guide to Irish shieldbugs & related families

This is in preparation by the NBDC as one of their Swatch products.

4. The final part of the checklists of Irish insects

This was published in 2012 & includes the Hemiptera. It is published by the Irish Biogeographical Society.

My own recording this year has been mixed. I did relatively little on aquatics but made a more determined effort on non-aquatic species.

Highlights were my second Irish record of Microvelia pygmaea, at the edge of a Cladium swamp around a small lake on the eastern edge of the Burren. Specimens were found in May when some open water was accessible, but an attempt in August when water levels were much lower was defeated by the impenetrable Cladium. A specimen of Limnoporus rufoscutellatus was some consolation, although what it was doing in the middle of a Cladium bed is hard to fathom.

August 2012 brought some dry weather, so I brought my garden vac to do some suction sampling. This had been barely used in 2011 so I did a quick test in my own garden to check it still worked. This produced the first Irish record of Megaloceroea recticornis. More specimens were easily found in the local area, so initial concern it may have been an introduction was quickly dispelled. However how long it has been here without being noticed is impossible to answer.

Other notable records over the past few years include the following

1. *Alydus calcaratus* – Roy Anderson collected this in 2008/2009 at its only Irish locality in Co Down confirming its continued presence.

2. *Berytinus montivagus* – new to Co Down; previously only known from the Burren.

3. *Cyphostethus tristriatus* – more records from a small area around Lough Derg, Co Tipperary where easily found on the upright Junipers. Botanists conclude that there is no consistent difference between the prostrate, intermediate & upright types of Juniper in Ireland, so why the shieldbug seems only to be on upright plants is puzzling (Cooper et al. 2012 The conservation status of juniper formations in Ireland. *Irish Wildlife Manuals*, No. 63 [www.npws.ie/publications](http://www.npws.ie/publications)). I have searched for it on prostrate Juniper in the Burren & elsewhere without success, so it is not due to biased sampling. It could make an interesting student project to look at the whole range of the growth forms to see which ones support the shieldbug.

4. *Fieberocapsus flaveolus* – new to Co Down; previously only in Dublin & Galway.


7. *Macrolophus sp*. I collected my first *Macrolophus* this year. Still not resolved which species it is but appears to be rubi which would be a first Irish record. This genus does however appear to be tricky!

8. *Orthotylus prasinus* – Keith Alexander found this is Roscommon & I collected it in the Burren. Undoubtedly underrecorded the only previous Irish records were from Co Kerry.


10. *Palomena prasina* – the northward expansion of this species continues & it is now easy to find as far north as Lough Neagh.

Finally, I would welcome any records of Irish Heteroptera to add to the database, & if anyone is contemplating visiting, please feel free to contact me for advice or information.

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Heteroptera on Islay in 2011 - a brief account & impressions of this Scottish island
Brian Nelson

I paid my first entomological visit to a Scottish island when I went to Islay in the last week of July 2011. It was one of the best weeks of that indifferent summer, mostly dry & sunny although not especially warm. My recording appears to add several species to the Islay list.

Islay is the closest Scottish island to Ireland, so I was interested to see how the Heteroptera & its habitats compared with those familiar from home in Ireland, but the main purpose of the visit was to investigate the entomology of two reserves: Smalull Farm & The Oa. The emphasis was on aquatic species. Visits were made to a few other localities sampled opportunistically.

Smalull Farm on the west coast has areas of wet heath & modified bog, coastal grassland & arable. It contains part of Loch Corr (noted for its water beetle fauna). There are two small valleys draining heaths west of the lake, the most interesting, Gleann na Muchdalaich, contains a mossy mire at Dun Bheolain. The Oa is an elevated coastal site with heath & blanket bog & several lakes.

There are few records of aquatic bugs from Islay – most of those in the 2003 provisional atlas (Huxley 2003) seem to derive from a visit by Tom Huxley specifically to improve coverage. Other records can also be found in Dolling (1983) & Huxley (1997) & the NBN Gateway. The number of species recorded from Islay is between 28 & 30 according to the list in Huxley (1997). Table 1 lists the species recorded during my visit. The total of 17 aquatic & semi-aquatics is well short of the total for the island but July is not ideal as many species are between generations. Nevertheless several appear to be new to the island. As aquatic habitat on Islay is common much recording remains to be done.

Hebrus ruficeps is particularly interesting as this appears to be the first record from any Scottish island & even on mainland Scotland it is extremely scarce. From an Irish perspective, the record is less surprising, as it is found right along the western seaboard in lakes & fens on machair plains. I suspect it could also be found on the Outer Hebrides at the edge of machair lakes.

Corixa punctata has been reported from Islay before but Tom Huxley considered, perhaps correctly, that the records referred to C. iberca. C. punctata may have spread to the island recently as, in the 1980s, I found iberca on Fair Head & Rathlin Island in north Antrim, but in the last 5-6 years I could only find punctata! However this does not tally with what Robert Angus has written about these two species. C. iberca is an interesting species that deserves more attention simply because of its peculiar global distribution. An study of the two species across their range in western Scotland & Ireland really is needed.

Of the wetland habitats I visited, the Heteroptera were mostly as I expected, but some lakes had virtually no Heteroptera, which was difficult to understand. The low variety of semi-aquatic species is probably the most striking difference from similar habitats in Ireland. I saw no reason why G. odontogaster should be absent & I would not have been surprised if I had seen Gerris argentatus or L. rufoscultellatus on Loch Corr. G. argentatus is probably too southern but Islay is well within range of L. rufoscultellatus. There would also appear to be plenty of habitat for G. costae on Islay, but I did not come across it, & only one dot is shown in Huxley’s atlas. Similarly, I would have expected Hydrometra stagnorum & Microvelia reticulata to somewhere in the habitats I visited - perhaps with time & more recording they will be found.

In general Islay is a wonderful contrast to modern-day Ireland in particular for the richness & number of birds on the farmland. There are not many places where after a few days the sight of a male Hen Harrier loses its novelty!

A short paper with fuller details of the entomology has been prepared for the Glasgow Naturalist.

Table 1 Heteroptera recorded on Islay July 2011.
(* species apparently new to Islay)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hebrus ruficeps*</td>
<td>Apparently 1st from any Scottish island.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerris lacustris</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerris thoracicus</td>
<td>Most commonly seen species but this reflects habitats visited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Velia caproi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepa cinerea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notonecta obliqua</td>
<td>5 sites; no N. glauca seen although habitats seemed more suitable for it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micronecta poweri*</td>
<td>One from record from Loch na Beinne on The Oa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glanoecorixa propinquia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cavifrons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corixa punctata*</td>
<td>Appears to be new to Islay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hesperocorixa castanea</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hesperocorixa linnaei</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Callicorixa praestua</td>
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<tr>
<td>Callicorixa wollastoni</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sigara dorsalis</td>
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<td>Sigara nigrolineata</td>
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<td>Sigara scotti</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sigara venusta</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chartasscia cincta*</td>
<td>Apparently new to Islay 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salda littoralis*</td>
<td>Apparently new to Islay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saldula palustris*</td>
<td>Apparently new to Islay from Loch Gruinart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saldula saltatoria*</td>
<td>Apparently new to Islay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closterotomus norvegicus</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cytorhinus caricus</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Leptotterella dolabrata</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pithanus maerkei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References

Dolling, W.R., 1983). Heteroptera of the far north of Britain. HetNews (First series) 1, 14-18


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**Closterotomus trivialis in N of England**

**Jim Flanagan**

On 12th June 2012 I swept some small stands of meadow-sweet-rich vegetation on a gravelly stoney substrate beside Lake Windermere, at Bowness-on-Windermere (SD4096, vc 69, Westmorland). I obtained one bug & was stunned to find it was *Closterotomus trivialis*! Further sweeping produced no further individuals. This is the first record for Cumbria, unless anyone knows differently. Herewith is a photograph of the specimen.

This is a northward extension of the bug's UK distribution. It was first found in Britain in 2008, in inner London gardens (Tristan Bantock, *Het News* 15, p3). Subsequently, it was recorded in 2011 from Sheffield (vc 63, SW Yorkshire) by Derek Whiteley.

**Tristan Bantock** adds: In 2011 there were records at multiple sites in the London area, four new sites for the bug. The species seems to be well-established, as follows:

- Crouch End (original population), South Kensington (NHM), & Chiswick (all vc 21, Middlesex).
- Battersea Park, Wimbledon Common; & Merton Park (vc17, Surrey).
- Also, on 5th June 2011 Rob Ryan recorded it at New Marston Meadows in Oxford (SP5208, vc23) (*Ent.Rec.*, 124, pp 277-278 (Nov/Dec 2012).
- TB also commented that “the initial apparent association with *Hypericum ‘Hidcote’* was a red herring; the bug is evidently polyphagous”. At Wimbledon Common he found several on Umbelliferae & swept a number from sallows & rosebay willowherb, suggesting that the species is possibly moving onto native flora.

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**Tropidostethus pacificus (Van Duze),1921**


**Zygimus nigriceps still in Speyside**

**Roger Hawkins**

This northern speciality was found in Speyside, again, in 2012: in late July by Keith Alexander in upper Glen Feshie & Rothiemurchus Forest; then on 27th July by Roger Hawkins at Drake’s Bothy (NH884056), on the edge of the Inshriach Forest but within the national nature reserve. The small green bugs with black thorax were very active & only found on well-grown junipers close to ancient pines. There were none on smaller junipers in clearings & rides within pine plantations. If the bug is predatory, the abundant sawfly caterpillars on the junipers might be a prey item. I plan to place a pair of these bugs in the BENHS collection at Dinton Pastures.

[BSN: Another recent record was two found by Joe Botting on 2nd September 2010, near Dundreggan just N of Loch Ness.]

**Scearce mirid ant-mimics in S of England in 2011**

**Jonty Denton & Scotty Dodd**

**Myrmecoris gracilis** was recorded by JD & S on 25th June 2011 from Eelmoor Marsh (SU8353, vc12, N Hampshire): an adult was swept & another suction sampled in an open rough heathy area. On 20th July 2012, JD found specimens at White Moor, Lyndhurst (SU3108, vc11, S Hants) on open, grazed heath, **Systellonotus triguttatus** (L.) On 7th June 2011 SD swept several from either side of Wish Stream at Wishmoor Bottom, Camberley, on the Surrey/Berks border (SU8762) - i.e. in both VC 17 & VC22 (SD). Also, from Eelmoor Marsh (SU8353) by JD on 25th June 2011 amongst rosettes growing out of old tarmac areas.

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Scotty Dodd, 14 Scott Close, Stoborough Green, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5B

**Chlamydis evanescens in Oxfordshire**

**Rob Ryan**

RR reported finding two adults with nymphs, on Sedum at Bradfield Grove Airfield, near Carterton (SP24065, vc23 Oxfordshire), on 17th June 2012. The adults (males) were barely 2mm long, he was presently rearing a dozen nymphs. This is a new species for the vice-county.

**Conostethus venustus update from Derbs. & S Yorks.**

**Jim Flanagan**

**Conostethus venustus** seems to have resisted everything the weather has thrown at it this year in this area. Earlier in the season I found it new to Derbyshire on a brownfield site at Stavely (SK47, vc 57), a new vice-county record.

In Yorkshire I found it on a track through an arable field near Pontefract, at Purston (SE4319, vc 63, SW Yorkshire) & during late August at a former colliery site on the edge of Thorne Moor (SE71, vc 63). At this latter site it was very abundant on Scentless Mayweed! I feel sure that it has probably already extended its range southwards to south Derbyshire & Leicestershire.

Surprisingly, *C. venustus* was still around in mid-November. On the 13th of that month I was on a wind turbine site where there were gravel/hard-core access tracks, beginning to vegetate. One of these had a single flowering Scentless Mayweed plant with green prostrate leaves which I thought could harbour bugs if it were the season for them. I lifted the leaves & was astonished to find two adult *C. venustus* - a gravid female & a male. On 14th November, I tried my luck at another location, a cafe layby on the A616 trunk road to Manchester. Here, on disturbed ground, there was an abundance of flowering & flowerless Scentless Mayweed plants with green leaves. A five minute search produced a late-stage nymph and an adult male.

I suspect these late individuals resulted from delayed maturity due to the poor weather we had for much of the main bug season. Previously the latest dates I have recorded for this bug, in three seasons of recording it, was 2nd September this year, & in 2010. Possibly, at these particular locations, the ambient temperature was higher & hostplants able to flower & survive later, due to a) effects of the wind turbines & b) vehicle exhaust emissions from the busy road. Perhaps bug populations.
which experienced delayed maturity dispersed to such sites.

One conclusion is that the record-cleaning software which Recording Scheme Organisers are helping BRC develop must be a flexible beast so that it can be made to take account of advances in knowledge of species (in addition to changes in distribution, host plants etc.).

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**Tuponia** spp. on the North Essex coast, and a quick way to find them.

On 10th October this year I took a walk along the cliffs of north Essex between Clacton-on-Sea and Holland-on-Sea (TM1815, TM1915, TM2015). This area has been extensively altered in line with its popularity as a seaside resort, the cliffs having been stabilised by the planting of exotic shrubs including Tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.).

At this time of year the pink Tamarisk flowers are beginning to go over and, being netless, I hit upon a quick method of looking for the introduced *Tuponia* spp.

By grasping the base of the flower heads with one hand and gently drawing the cupped hand over the flowers any insects are dislodged into the palm of the hand where they can be tubed or ‘poofed’. At this time of year the bugs are perhaps more sluggish due to the cooler temperature, so I cannot vouch for the success of this method earlier in the year.

However, in this way I was able to record both *T. mixticolor* and *T. brevirostris* at several localities along the coast. On some bushes both species were present whilst at others only the former was found (at TM2015). Virtually all bushes examined also supported the leaf hopper *Opsius stactogalus* Fieber which was also evident in the webs of *Araneus diadematus* and other arachnids.

Encouraged by these findings on October 24th, I visited the cliffs between Harwich and Dovercourt where Tamarisk has also been planted and found both *T. brevirostris* and *O. stactogalus* at Beacon Cliff (TM2631) and *T. mixticolor* at Dovercourt Bay (TM2530).

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**ANTHOCORIDAE**

Decline of *Buchananiella continua* – consequence of wet season?
Keith Alexander

One of the striking features of the 2012 field season – apart from the almost incessant rain – has been the virtual absence of *Buchananiella continua* from sites where I would now expect to find it. I found it only once, at Warfield, Berkshire (SU8770), 11.vi.2012. In contrast I found it at three sites in 2011 & 9 in 2010. This data is clearly very noisy but might suggest a decline in abundance and/or range. The 2012 field season was also notable for a severe decline in abundance of its main food items, barkflies (*Psocoptera*), which always seem to vanish when it is raining. So, a collapse in the biomass of its food, & a marked decline in its own abundance. This does seem to be a consistent story. I would be interested to hear how other recorders got on with this interesting bug. Did other species suffer from the poor conditions?

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**LYGAEIDAE**

*Arocatus longiceps* spreading out from London

Nigel Willits

On 25th October 2012 NW wrote to BSN saying he thought he had found an adult *Arocatus longiceps* the previous day at The Lodge, Sandy (TL188480, vc 30, Beds). Adding that there were no plane trees in the immediate vicinity of where he found it (on a fence-post), but there were a few within 150-200m. The head & scutellum were largely dark; the dark patch on the corium was large & roughly triangular, leaving a narrow red fringe. The red on the pronotum was mostly confined to the anterior border. Two-thirds of the underside of the abdomen was bright orange. He thought these characters ruled out *C. hyoscyami*, which had become quite frequent in the county in the last few years.

The bug was very lively, even after a night in the fridge, so photography of the live bug was tricky. But he included photographs (see example below). The identity was confirmed by BSN who also confirmed it to be a new species for vc30, Bedfordshire.

willits1960@hotmail.com

[Image of Arocatus longiceps]

Continuing with this *Arocatus longiceps* theme:

**Amoret Spooner (Oxford University Museum)**

wrote to Jim Flanagan in mid-December 2012 to report that the species had been found recently in & near OUM. Pete Johnson, a handy-man in the museum had found two live specimens in his office in the basement of the museum. AS recognised these as *A. longiceps* having seen the species in Prague. He froze, pointed & photographed the specimens. Then, knowing the host plant to be plane trees, they had searched some of these trees directly outside the museum & had found an abundance of *A. longiceps* on them!

He had sent a photo to JF who had confirmed the bug’s identity & noted that it was the 1st for vc23, Oxfordshire.

**Peter Kirby** found this species in Cambridge city in 2012 - the 1st for for vc29, Cambridgeshire.

**Eremocoris fenestratus** in N of England

Tristan Bantock

There was an anonymous report of *Eremocoris fenestratus* photographed on 22nd May 2012 in Yorkshire (SK4384 8586, vc63 SW Yorkshire). The site was an urban roadside in the vicinity of a brick bus-stop at Fence, a former mining village SW of Aughton, near Sheffield. There was a convincing photograph of the bug on the Flickr website at: www.flickr.com/photos/fence_s13/7254109266/

**Aphanus rolandri** host-plants

Andy Foster

On 6th January 2012 AF wrote saying: I was interested to read the note on *Aphanus rolandri* in the latest *Het News*, &
it's possible association with fumitories. I have only encountered this bug on two occasions, once from an allotment & once from arable set-aside, but on checking my notes fumitory was present on both occasions - although no direct association was noted. The records are:


**COREIDAE**

*Arenocoris waltlii* again in W Suffolk
Richard Dickson
RD wrote to say he had confirmed a specimen of
*Arenocoris waltlii* found by Paul Brock at Rampart Field, East Suffolk, on 9th June 2012, it was found with *A. falleni* at the same site as these were recorded in 2011.

[BSN: I visited Rampart Field in warm sunshine on 12th May 2012 but no ground bugs at all were to be seen at the exact spot where *Arenocoris* spp et al. had been so numerous when I visited the site on 5th July 2011 with Tristan Bantock & Stuart Read.]

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**CYDNIDAE**

*Canthophorus impressus* on Salisbury Plain
Steve Covey
On 5th April 2012 SC e-mailed to say that he had just found this shieldbug on Great Cheverell Hill SSSI, Salisbury Plain (ST9752, vc 8, S Wiltshire). This is a stronghold of its very local food plant, Bastard Toadflax, but finding this was like searching for the proverbial needle in a haystack!

He had visited the site to look for Marsh Fritillary larval webs to photograph when by chance he saw a metallic blue ‘beetle’ scurrying around in the short turf & almost dismissed it. Then one came out into the open & the penny dropped! Altogether he saw 10 or more on quite a small [10m] length of sheep terracing, so there must be quite a healthy population on the site.

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**ACANTHOSOMATOMIDAE**

*Elasmucha ferrugata* in Yorkshire (correction)
Jim Flanagan
There was a problem with the *Elasmucha ferrugata* article in *Het News* 12, p20., the following text was omitted from the beginning of the third paragraph:-

“Fordham (1921: 334) gives two records for Yorkshire. His entry for this species, in full, is: 
'*E. ferrugatus* F. Bradford, July, 1889, J. W. C. (E.M.M., 1909, p. 197). Leeds Market, on bilberries, W. D. R. (Mr. Butterfield suggests the possibility that the bilberries were Continental).”

The incorrect version of *Het News* on the website was replaced after a couple of days with a corrected version, but some readers will have the uncorrected version.

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**AROUND THE BRITISH ISLES**

**Bedfordshire** ......................................................: vc 30

**Main features of 2012 in the county**

Bernard Nau
The cool damp weather of the previous autumn would have inhibited development of many nymphs destined to form the spring generation of adults in 2012; & in early summer 2012, exceptionally heavy rains with associated low air temperatures must have caused high mortality of summer nymph populations. Consequently, adult populations of many species were quite exceptionally low this year. However, the year did produce two new species for the county list, bringing the all-time total to 399; there have been new species every year for eight consecutive years now!

**Additions to the county list in 2012**

**Brachysteles parvicornis** On 27th June 2012 a female was shaken from a dead branch of a Hawthorn bush at Willington Quarry (TL100505), the branch was encrusted with grey lichen. It is an inconspicuous under-recorded bug with scattered records from the south & east of England. It is dark brown, about 2.5 mm long, feeds on orobatid mites, & may be found in almost any of the diverse habitats where these mites occur.

**Arocatus longiceps** On 24th October 2012 Nigel Willits found one of these on a fence post on Sandy Heath & I confirmed his identification from a photograph.

**Some comments on other species**

**Halticus luteicollis**: numerous & widespread on its usual host, Goosegrass (*Galium aparine*), but in Maulden Wood on 23rd July it was also common on Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) along woodland ride verges.

**Placochilus saladonicus**: it is several years since I have seen this at a new site in the county but on 18th August I swept two females from a field margin on Pegsdon Common, on its normal host Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*). It used to be found about 1km to the south, in a large coombe in Pegsdon Hills but grazing has eliminated the host-plant there.

**Psallus spp.**: I have never seen so few! They are usually abundant, arboreal species. Just one example of a species affected by the adverse weather!

**Eurygaster testudinaria**: I swept one in Maulden Wood on 31st August 2012, from managed grass heath. It was also found on the lower slopes of Blows Downs by Peter Kirby during an invertebrate survey. Both are new sites for this very recent addition to the county fauna.

A rare high point was a visit to Bedford Town Park on 9th September, to examine, for bugs, a long perennial flower bed that bisects this traditional Victorian ornamental park. This yielded, among other bugs, six species of ‘shieldbugs & allies’, including *Corizus hyoscyami* & *Gonocerus acuteangulatus* - although not *Macrolophus geranii* Josifov that I was hoping to find on its host-plant, *Geranium macrorrhizum*, there was plenty of this in flower. However I was surprised to find good numbers of nymphs, tenerais & some adults of a near relative, *Dicyphus errs* - not an uncommon species but usually only in ones & twos.

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A male *Closterotomus trivialis* was identified in a batch of Hemiptera collected by Derek Whiteley on 1st June 2011, from SE Sheffield at Owthorpe Meadow (vc64, SK4182).

Two corrections to be made to records for 2010, in HN16, are as follows:

‘*Stictopleurus abution*’ from Thorne Moor (vc63) by Andy Godfrey should read *Stictopleurus punctatovenosus*.

‘*Coreus marginatus*’ reported from Ledstone Ings in NW Yorkshire (vc64) by Joe Botting should read *Coriomeris denticulatus*.

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Some water bugs in in 2011

*Martin Hammond*

In April, former gravel pits at Staveley West Lagoons near Knaresborough (vc 64, SE36) produced good numbers of *Cymatia bonsdorfi*. This species, which is still very local in North Yorkshire, was first recorded at the site in 2006, suggesting that it is now well-established.

A survey of Rossett LNR in Harrogate (vc 64, SE25) produced all four Notonecta species, with multiple records suggesting that all were probably breeding. The site is a complex of clay-bedded lowland ponds of neutral pH but is presumably sufficiently close to the Pennines to recruit *N. obliqua*. Despite several visits to this site, there was no sign of Gerris gibbifer, which was not uncommon there in 2001/2002.

A survey of the River Derwent at Stamford Bridge on the vc 61/62 boundary produced *Apheloceirus aestivalis* at its best known Yorkshire station. One of them decided to stab me, producing a level of pain which makes a Notonecta ‘nip’ seem mild.

In October, *Ilyocoris cimicoides* was abundant in a shallow, mildly brackish lagoon at the RSPB’s Saltholme reserve (NZ52) in the south of vc 66 (County Durham). This is the 3rd location for the species on Teesside that I know of (the 1st record coming from Portrack Marsh NR in 2009). Both larvae & mature adults were present. Although at the northern limit of its range here, Ilyocoris has apparently not suffered from two successive hard winters; perhaps slightly brackish, coastal ponds provide an advantage in such situations?

Finally, numerous *Sigara scotti* were a nice find in a recently excavated peaty pond on Towthorpe Common (part of Strensall Common SSSI) in the Vale of York (vc 62, SE65). This is a species I very rarely encounter in Yorkshire or the north-east despite a fair amount of collecting in the uplands. Nearby, non-acidic fen pools at Askham Bog SSSI (vc 64, SE54) produced *Sigara semistriata* & *Hesperocorixa castanea*.

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*Channel Isles* ........................................VC 113

*Heteroptera on Jersey*

*Jerry Bowdrey*

During a week's holiday in the Channel Island of Jersey between 27th August & 2nd September 2011 the following species of Heteroptera were noticed whilst enjoying the varied scenery of the island:

**PENTATOMIDAE**

- *Nezara viridula* - Grouville Royal Golf Club 2nd Sep. 2011, late instar nymphs on *Lavatera* sp.
- *Palomena prasina* - Gorey Castle 28.viii.2011
- *Piezodorus lituratus* - Queen's Valley Reservoir 29th Aug. 2011
- *Eurydema oleracea* - St Ouen's Bay, on beach 1st Sep.2011

**COREIDAE**

- *Coreus marginatus* - Grouville Royal Golf Club 2nd Sep. 2011, on *Lavatera* sp.

**ALYDIDAE**

- *Alydus calcaratus* - Gorey Castle 28th Aug.2011

**PYRRHOCORIDAE**

- *Pyrrhoceras apterus* - Grouville Common and Grouville Royal Golf Club 2nd Sep.2011, both on *Lavatera* sp.

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INTERNATIONAL

Anon., 2012a
Key to Rhopalinae of Bavaria
Internet - www.zsm.mwn.de/rhy/Rhopalidae.pdf
Consolidated from keys in lit., many dwgs.

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Key to Coreidiae of Bavaria
Internet - www.zsm.mwn.de/rhy/Coreidae.pdf
Consolidated from keys in lit., many dwgs.

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Nieuwe en interessante Nederlandse wantsen V. New & interesting Dutch bugs (Hem.Het.).
Nederlandse Faunistische Medelingen, vol 36, pp 1-7, 2011

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Phimodera humeralis na bijna 70 jaar in Nederland waargenomen (Ht. Scutelleridae).
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Protic, Ljiljana, 2011
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**BRITISH ISLES**


Kingston Cemetery, vc17: 28Jul2011; dozens of adults & nymphs*; also *Eremocoris fenestras tus.*


Basingstoke Canal, vc12, abundant 20 May 2011; Mychett Lake, vc17, present 11 Jul2011.


Nau.B.S. 2011 Bugs (Heteroptera) 2010 *Bedfordshire Naturalist*, 65 (Pt 1), pp42-45 Annual report of Bedfordshires’ Heteroptera ‘Recorder’ covering the year 2010 (reports have been published annually back to 1972)


Ryan, R.P., 2012d
Closterotomus trivialis (A. Costa) arrives in Oxford & Agnocoris reclairei (Wagner) returns (Hem.: Miridae)

Ryan, R.P., 2012e
Dersocoris olivaceus (Fabr.) (Hem.: Miridae) new to Oxfordshire
Brit Jnl Ent. Nat. Hist, 25, 2, pp113-114

Ryan, R.P., 2012f
Dersocoris scutellaris (Fabr.) (Hem.: Miridae) in the Chiltern Hills
Hartslock, Goring, Coombe Hill, Wendover.

Ryan, R.P., 2012g
Aradus cinnamomeus Panzer (Hem.: Aradidae) new to Oxfordshire

Ryan, R.P., 2012h
Miridius quadrivirgatus (A. Costa) (Hem.: Miridae) in Berkshire.
Cowthorne, vc22 Berks, 17th July 2006.

Ryan, R.P., 2012i
Chorosoma schillingii (Schilling) (Hem.: Rhopalidae) in Surrey
Thursley Cmn, 23 July 2011.

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An addendum to Southwood & Leston's Land & water bugs of the British Isles.
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Some Corixidae (Hem.-Het.) from bog & moorland waters.
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The latitudinal uniformity of the unique life history of Velia caprai (Het.: Veliiidae) & notes to the pre-overwintering period of selected water striders (Het.: Gerridae)
Entomologica Fennica, vol 22, pp106-112
Wing morphs, oviposition, composition.

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Compléments a la Faune de France des Hétéroptères Miridae.
Orthotylus (Parapachylops) subgen. armoricanus n. sp.
Key to subgenera of Orthotylus; description & many dwgs of O. armoricanus n. sp. from Brittany (S Finistère). Beaten from Tamarix & Thuja. Later referred to O. j. junipericola Linnavuori, 1965.

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The colonization of small freshwater habitats by aquatic insects. 2.Hemiptera (the water bugs)
Ceylon J. Biol. Sci., xxx

Milliken, F.B., 1918
Nysius ericae, the false chinch bug
Entomologiste, vol XIII, No.11, pp571-578 + 2 plates
Description, ad & nymphal stage illustrated. Fife history, habitat etc.

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