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The Entomologist's monthly magazine.

Oxford [etc.]Entomologist's Monthly Magazine Ltd. [etc.]

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/8646>

v.48=no.572-583=ser.2:v.23 (1912):

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/35893>

Article/Chapter Title: *Haematopinus vituli*, L. (= *tenouirostris*, Burm.) in N. Mavine, Shetland

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Varieties of two British Coleoptera.—*Aphodius punctato-sulcatus*, Sturm, v. *obscurellus*, Schilsky.—On May 24th, 1908, I took at Deal a well-marked melanic form of our abundant dung-beetle, *Aphodius punctato-sulcatus*, in which the usual fuscous blotch on the elytra is much darkened, and so expanded as to leave only a narrow stripe near the suture, and a narrow space at base, sides, and apex yellowish; the sides of the thorax also are only very narrowly pale. This is the var. *obscurellus* of Schilsky (Deutsche Ent. Zeitschrift, 1888, p. 315). Mr. F. Bouskell some years ago recorded in the transactions of the Leicester Literary, &c. Society a specimen of *A. punctato-sulcatus* from the same locality, which appeared to him to be this variety.

Bryaxis longicornis, Leach (= *Rybaxis sanguinea*, auct.).—I took in April, 1910, near Roydon, W. Essex, a specimen of this common species in which the elytra are entirely black. Although such a form might be expected to occur, having regard to the variability in the shade of the red coloration of the elytra in the ordinary form, I cannot find that a British specimen of it has been recorded previously. It is, however, known on the Continent, as Ganglbauer, in the course of his description of the species in his well-known work on the *Coleoptera* of Central Europe, says that the elytra are “very rarely black.”—F. B. JENNINGS, 152, Silver Street, Upper Edmonton, N.: *February 8th*, 1912.

Bledius arenarius, Payk., var. *fergussoni*, Joy.—Whatever opinion may ultimately prevail as to the specific value of *Bledius secernendus*, Joy, there can, I think, be no doubt that the insect described by Dr. Joy as *B. arenarius*, var. *fergussoni*, is the same as Rey's *B. arenarius*, var. *a.*, for which he proposes the name of *Bledius minor* (vide *Oxyporiens—Oxytéliens*, p. 192).—E. A. NEWBERY, 13, Oppidans Road, N.W.: *February 15th*, 1912.

Apatura iris and *Vanessa antiopa*, &c., near Hastings, in 1911.—It may be well to put on record that *Apatura iris*, a very rare species in this district, was seen by the Rev. A. G. Gregor at Brede on July 13th. It was sitting with wings expanded on the public road. *Vanessa antiopa* was taken by Mrs. Davison of Guestling in her own house on October 6th. It is a beautiful specimen with cream-coloured border, and had probably flown indoors for hibernation. *Sphinx convolvuli* has not been uncommon this autumn near Hastings. *Zeuzera æsculi* was brought to me by one of the school children, and *Cemistoma spartifoliella* swarmed about a bush of broom in my garden.—E. N. BLOOMFIELD, Guestling Rectory, near Hastings: *February*, 1912.

Hæmatopinus vituli, L. (= *tenuirostris*, Burm.), in N. Mavine, Shetland.—This peculiar louse occurred in extraordinary numbers during October last on a white calf belonging to a crofter in this neighbourhood. The animal suffered extreme discomfort for ten days and lost rapidly in condition, being latterly unable to sleep or rest. Small sores also formed, partly through the sucking of the parasite, and partly through the beast's rubbing against every hard object in his way. The crofter's treatment of the attack, a liberal application of “flowers of sulphur,” was quite effective. By the second day, the lower parts of the

fore-limbs, which had received less attention, were black with dead or dying lice, and within a week, I believe, the animal was clean.—JAMES WATERSTON, Manse, Ollaberry, Shetland: *January, 1912.*

Stridulation in British Reduviidæ.—It has long been known that two of our British *Reduviidæ* have the power of stridulation, viz., *Reduvius personatus*, L., and *Coranus subapterus*, De G. The earliest notice of the former dates 200 years back, and is to be found in Ray's "Historia Insectorum" (1710), while the latter was mentioned by De Geer in 1771. But the apparatus by which the sound is produced does not seem to have been figured till comparatively recently. In the "Annalen" of the Vienna Natural History Museum for 1900, Prof. Handlirsch describes and figures the stridulating organs in each of these species. On the prosternum, between the anterior coxæ, there is a furrow containing a large number of fine transverse striæ, and the rugose tip of the short rostrum is moved along this furrow, crossing the striæ at right angles, and thus causing the chirping sound. The author further calls attention to the fact that a similar furrow is to be found in almost all sections of the *Reduviidæ* and allied families the world over, except the *Henicocephalidæ* and the *Nabidæ*, and he enumerates ninety genera in which he has observed it; but whether in all these cases the furrow is transversely striate and, therefore, presumably a stridulating apparatus, he does not state. Our British species included in the groups in question range themselves under four genera, three of which are represented by a single species, while the fourth contains only three. Of these, putting on one side *Pygolampis bidentata*, Goeze, of which there is only a unique British record, *Reduvius personatus* and *Coranus subapterus*, as already mentioned, are recognised stridulators, but I do not know that any one has observed a similar habit in either of our three species of *Ploiariola*; and yet the apparatus exists in this genus. In *P. vagabunda*, L., there is, as Handlirsch states, the usual furrow in the prosternum, along which the tip of the rostrum travels. I find that this furrow is very deep, and is crossed by four strong slightly curved ridges placed at nearly equal intervals, and the whole area, including the ridges, is covered with fine parallel transverse striæ. A very similar arrangement is found in *P. culiciformis*, De G., but it is more difficult to see. Our third species, *P. baerensprungi*, Dohrn, I have not been able to examine. It can scarcely be doubted that this structure, identical in principle with the first-named examples, has stridulation for its function, and I call attention to it in the hope that collectors who meet with these insects may be on the look-out for direct evidence of their sound-producing power.—E. A. BUTLER, 56, Cecile Park, Crouch End, N.: *February 2nd, 1912.*

Psylla albipes, Flor, in Surrey.—I am indebted to my friend Mr. Wm. West for the opportunity of recording this interesting addition to the British fauna. *Psylla albipes* may be distinguished from all our British species by the markings on the elytra; the latter are hyaline, with brownish-yellow veins, and have a blackish streak on the dorsum just before the apex of the clavus, as well as a subtriangular blackish spot on vein 2, of which it occupies about half the length, and by which it is unequally divided. The species was described by Flor from