



# Het News

Newsletter of the UK Heteroptera Recording Schemes

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3rd series

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**Editor:** Tristan Bantock: 101 Crouch Hill, London N8 9RD [tristanba@googlemail.com](mailto:tristanba@googlemail.com)

[britishbugs.org.uk](http://britishbugs.org.uk), [twitter.com/BritishBugs](https://twitter.com/BritishBugs)

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## Announcements

### A tribute – Ashley Wood

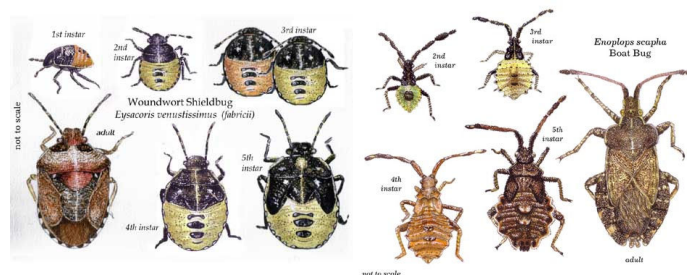
It was with great sadness that I learnt of the death of Ashley Wood last year, shortly after publication of the previous issue of *Het News*.

During the formative years of the British Bugs website, Joe Botting and I built up a network of contributors via the photo-sharing website Flickr. Ashe was perhaps the most important and influential of these, managing to find and photograph many species and simultaneously motivating others to take an interest in Hemiptera. She was a diligent and careful observer, and it was only through her painstaking work finding and rearing the nymphs of many of the shieldbugs and allies, that we were able to document their early stages.

She was an avid recorder of Hemiptera, contributing many records to the shieldbugs and allies recording scheme in particular. Although I only had the pleasure of joining her in the field on a few occasions, her unassuming

and self-effacing nature was immediately obvious to all who met her.

Later on, her work rearing the shieldbugs and allies inspired her to illustrate the life stages of almost all these species, resulting in a series of extremely useful and hugely charismatic images, in which her affection for the subject matter clearly shines through. They have been repeatedly praised by users of the website and some have recently appeared in printed publications. These shall remain her legacy.



Tristan Bantock

## Updated keys to Terrestrial Heteroptera exc. Miridae

Pete Kirby has produced an updated version of his keys to Terrestrial Heteroptera excluding Miridae, which he would like to circulate for testing. Please email [tristanba@googlemail.com](mailto:tristanba@googlemail.com) if you would like to receive these as a pdf.

## County Recorder News

Hertfordshire (VC20) is now covered by Joe Gray and all records should be sent to [joegrays.uk@googlemail.com](mailto:joegrays.uk@googlemail.com).

Please continue to send all Surrey records of Hemiptera to [JontyDenton@aol.com](mailto:JontyDenton@aol.com) and Kent records of heteroptera to [KentshieldbugAtlas@gmail.com](mailto:KentshieldbugAtlas@gmail.com).

## IUCN Status Reviews for Heteroptera

IUCN status reviews are nearing completion for shieldbugs & allies and aquatic Heteroptera and these should be published in March 2015 and will be available via the Natural England website.

The plant bugs & allies recording scheme is currently collating records for a future review, although this much larger group of species is likely to take some time. Please send all records to [jimflanagan@btopenworld.com](mailto:jimflanagan@btopenworld.com).

## New RES Handbook to Shieldbugs & Allies of Britain and Ireland

It is now some 65 years since the publication of Southwood & Leston's Land and Water Bugs of the British Isles, and during the intervening period the Heteroptera fauna of Britain and Ireland has not been static. Many new species have appeared in Britain for the first time and new evidence has come to light of previously overlooked or doubtfully resident species.

The Heteroptera will be covered for the first time by a forthcoming Royal Entomological Society Handbook and will include the following families: Acanthosomatidae, Alydidae, Coreidae, Cydnidae, Dicranocephalidae, Pentatomidae, Pyrrhocoridae, Rhopalidae, Scutelleridae, Stenocephalidae and Thyreocoridae, together comprising approximately 65 species. Current information on their ecological requirements and distribution will be provided, together with full colour photos of each species.

**Alex Ramsay & Tristan Bantock**

## Request for photographs of *Peribalus* spp.

In order to establish which species of *Peribalus* (formerly *Holcostethus*) are present in Britain and Ireland I would like to request habitus photos of any *Peribalus* found within the last 20 years. It is likely that all examples recorded from Britain and Ireland are *Peribalus strictus vernalis* (Fabricius), however some examples could be overlooked *Peribalus strictus strictus* (Fabricius). Both *H.s. strictus* and *H.s. vernalis* have formerly been regarded as full species but due to recent classification changes have been downgraded to subspecies (Ribes et al., 2006). Photos are required to clarify current situation in Britain

and Ireland for the forthcoming RES Handbook to Shieldbugs & Allies (see this issue of Het News for more details). Please send photos to my email address at [alexramsay6@yahoo.com](mailto:alexramsay6@yahoo.com). Many thanks for any assistance in this.

## References

Ribes, J., Pagola-Cardé, S., Pérez Valcarcel, J. 2006. Una sinonimia restituida en el género *Holcostethus* Fieber, 1860 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae) Boletín de la Sociedad Entomología Aragonesa 39: 407-408.

**Alex Ramsay**

## Species new to Britain

### *Centrocoris variegatus* Kolenati, 1845 (Coreidae)

Steve Lane reported a single specimen of this species from inside a house in Inglethorpe (VC28, TF6832) during April 2014. Given the location and circumstances of the record, an imported origin seems most likely.

### *Orius horvathi* (Reuter, 1884) (Anthocoridae)

Pete Kirby beat several specimens from Austrian Pine *Pinus nigra* at Westwood, Peterborough, VC32, TL17339977 on 10.vii.2014 and 25.vii.2014.

He comments:

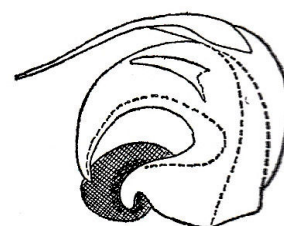
"*Orius horvathi* is a widespread species in Europe and it is rather surprising that it has not been recorded in Britain before. It has no obligatory association with any particular species of tree and its apparently close association with Austrian Pine at its Westwood site probably reflects no more than the abundance of prey on these trees compared to the surrounding urban habitats. There are many gardens in the immediate vicinity which provide a plausible route of introduction with nursery plants."

Males are most easily identified with reference to the paramere, which is figured in Péricart (1972). This volume is available as a PDF download from:

<http://www.fanedefrance.org/bibliothequevirtuellenumerique>

## References

Péricart, J. (1972) Faune de l'Europe et du bassin méditerranéen: Hémiptères, Anthocoridae, Cimicidae et Microphysidae, de l'ouest-paléarctique. . Fédération Française des Sociétés de Sciences Naturelles.



Left: *Orius horvathi* ©T. Bantock. Right: ♂ paramere (after Pericart, 1972)

***Nabis (Tropiconabis) capsiformis* Germar, 1838**  
(Nabidae)

Dave Appleton contacted me in December 2014 with images of an unusual nabid he had caught while moth trapping in Porthgwarra, Cornwall (VC1, SW371217) on 21.xi.14. The bug was strikingly macropterous, with very long and slender mid and hind legs. On examining the specimen, a female, the similarity to the habitus drawing of *Nabis capsiformis* in Péricart (1987) was immediately obvious, the only European *Nabis* species to show such a markedly long-winged appearance. The bug was 9 mm in length, the forewings extending beyond the end of the abdomen by 2.5 mm. Other features, such as the three dark marks along the wing veins in the posterior half of the corium and the finely bordered rear margin of the pronotum, were also consistent.



*Nabis capsiformis* ©T. Bantock

*N. capsiformis* is very well-represented in the collections of the Natural History Museum, London, and has an amazingly cosmopolitan global distribution. In the Western Palearctic it is common in north Africa and the Middle East and more sporadic in the Mediterranean north to the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel north. However, it is well-known as a strongly migratory species which can disperse great distances; Pericart (1987) reports it as regularly recorded in oceanic aerial plankton up to 1200 km from the nearest coast. Interesting, the species is particularly common in southern Europe during the late autumn; Carapezza (1997) reports huge numbers in southern Tunisia during November.

Weather conditions were favourable for insect migration on the night of the 21.xi.14 and during the preceding days, with mild temperatures and moderate southerly winds.

Numerous migrant Lepidoptera were recorded from the coast of southern England during this period and three species were present with *N. capsiformis* in the trap at Porthgwarra.

**Tristan Bantock**

**References**

- Carapezza, A. (1997) Heteroptera of Tunisia. *Naturalista Siciliano* 21:Suppl. A1–331.  
Péricart, J. (1987) Hemipteres Nabidae d'Europe occidentale et du Maghreb. Fédération Française des Sociétés de Sciences Naturelles

***Psallus anaemicus* Seidenstücker, 1966 (Miridae)**

***Psallus helenae* Josifov, 1969 (Miridae)**

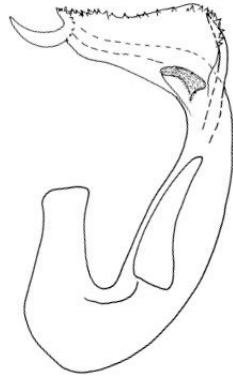
Pete Kirby beat both species from Turkey Oak *Quercus cerris* at Thorpe Park, Peterborough, VC32, TL17029830 on 16.vi.2014 and 28.vi.2014. He comments:

“Both *Psallus* species are widespread in Central Europe. The host trees are probably in fact introgressed hybrids of Turkey Oak and Cork Oak *Quercus suber*, sometimes loosely referred to as Lucombe Oak, although this name strictly applies only to the first generation hybrid *Quercus x crenata*. The trees from which they were captured are mature and not close to recent plantings or any obviously possible point of introduction. It seems likely that *P. anaemicus* and *P. helenae* have been established for some time, and may be widespread.”

As Pete suggests, both these species could be widespread in Britain and should be looked for wherever Turkey Oak or its hybrids occur. There are several other European *Psallus* species on this host, which could also occur in Britain.



Left: *Psallus anaemicus* ©T. Bantock. Right: ♂ aedeagus (after Wyniger, 2004)



Left: *Psallus helenae* ©T. Bantock. Right: ♂ aedeagus (after Wyniger, 2004)

#### References

Wyniger, D. (2004). Taxonomy and phylogeny of the Central European bug genus *Psallus* (Hemiptera, Miridae) and faunistics of the terrestrial Heteroptera of Basel and surroundings (Hemiptera) (Doctoral dissertation, University of Basel). PDF download at [http://edoc.unibas.ch/79/1/DissB\\_6696.pdf](http://edoc.unibas.ch/79/1/DissB_6696.pdf)

Tristan Bantock

### Species notes

#### COREIDAE

##### *Arenocoris waltlii*

First Norfolk record for almost a century. Two populations discovered in 2014 at a Breckland site straddling the border of VC28 (West Norfolk) and VC26 (West Suffolk) (Steve Lane).

##### *Ceraleptus lividus*

First record for Yorkshire: Ex-colliery land south of Little Houghton, Barnsley (VC63, SE4205) on 1.vi.2014 (Jim Flanagan).

This follows on from some recent records of this species from Nottinghamshire with the first records for that county during 2007 from Eakring Flash (SK6762) and Sherwood Forest Country Park (SK6267) and further records from other locations in 2009, 2001 and 2013 (pers. comm. Trevor Pendleton). There has also been one recent report from Lincolnshire (VC53, South Lincolnshire) when Mick Talbot found an adult at a brownfield site in Lincoln (SK9367) during May 2011.

Jim Flanagan

First record for Shropshire: Dudmaston, Heath Farm (VC40, SO747902). One adult on 1.vi.2014 (John Bingham).



*Ceraleptus lividus* at Dudmaston ©J. Bingham

##### *Gonocerus acuteangulatus*

First record for Leicestershire: Leicester, County Hall (VC55 SK550071). Several adults and a nymph on various dates in August and September 2014 (Mike Higgott)

#### CYDNIDAE

##### *Canthophorus impressus* feeding on marjoram

In September 2005 we were licensed by English Nature/National Trust to conduct invertebrate surveys at a number of sites on the Isle of Wight. One of the sites visited was Littleton Down where we found a number of red and blue/black nymphs crossing the narrow open soil tracks at one point on the down. At the time we were not sure what they were but decided to try and breed them through to adults as we always try to do with species we cannot identify. The nymphs were difficult to catch as they disappeared into the grasses at the edge of the tracks. Although they were partly bright red they were very difficult to spot in the grasses. However we managed to get several of different sizes, which we thought were first to third instar. We did not know what their preferred food plant was but the nymphs seemed to be going towards the good stands of marjoram in the vicinity where they were found so we gave them that. We continued to rear them on marjoram after our return to our home in Washingborough in Lincolnshire. Only after the bugs reached adulthood and we were able to identify them did we discover that their preferred food plant was bastard toadflax.

Southwood and Leston say that there is possibly an alternative host plant to bastard toadflax and suggest that is marjoram. The few insects that we have bred through thrived on marjoram although we do not know if they would have preferred bastard toadflax if given a choice.

Allan & Annette Binding

##### *Legnotus picipes*

First modern records for West Norfolk (VC28): Brancaster Dunes (TF7845) on 15.xi.2013, Hunstanton Dunes (TF6943) on 24.11.2014, Holme Dunes (TF7144) on 26.vii.2014 (Steve Lane).

### ***Tritomegas sexmaculatus***

First record for Middlesex (VC20):Twickenham College (TQ1573) on 14.viii.2014 (Jonty Denton).

## **PENTATOMIDAE**

### ***Eurydema oleracea***

Recent records from Wales: Newport Steelworks (VC35, ST375862), 1 adult and 1 nymph on 24.ix.2014 (SEWBReC).

Severn Tunnel Junction (VC35, ST457875), 16.vii.2006, (Steve Williams)

### ***Nezara viridula***

This species seemed to have a good year, with large numbers reported from some sites in the London area.

First records for Hertfordshire (VC20): Spellbrook (TL4817). One adult on 10.ix.2014 (Graeme Smith).

Maple Lodge Nature Reserve, Maple Cross (TQ036924). Approximately 20 late instars on 24.ix.2014 (Paul Davis).



Left: Nymphs on Lavender, Peckham, 10.viii.14 ©P. Frith  
Right: Nymph at Maple Lodge NR, Herts ©M. D. Parr

### ***Podops inuncta***

New to south-west Yorkshire (VC 63): SE71, 23.vii.2014 (M. Telfer)

## **STENOCEPHALIDAE**

### ***Dicranocephalus medius* feeding on *Euphorbia x pseudovirgata***

Mitcham Common (VC 17, TQ282672). Several adults associated with this stands of this naturalised hybrid spurge growing in acid grassland on 23.vi.2014 (Graham Collins & Jovita Kaunang).

## **SCUTELLERIDAE**

### ***Odontoscelis fuliginosa***

The first modern record away from its well-known strongholds (the Sandwich/Deal area of Kent and the south Pembrokeshire sand dunes).

A single male found at Reculver Cliff (VC 15 TR2269) 26.vi.2014 (Tony Davis).

## **LYGAEIDAE**

### ***Nysius huttoni***

First record for South Yorkshire (VC63): From brownfield land off Rockingham St, Sheffield (SK3487): female on 28.ix.2014 (Jim Flanagan).

The site is a small one and has been in existence for a few years. Much of the substrate was crushed brick and concrete with a locally sparse cover of ruderal vegetation including yarrow, purple toadflax, mugwort, prickly lettuce, yellow chamomile and viper's bugloss. A single female was swept from one of these sparsely vegetated areas. The fully-winged female was notable for one side of the hemelytra being slightly deformed which may or may not indicate a dispersing individual. The specimen was confirmed by Tristan Bantock. Other associated bugs included *Lygus maritimus*, *Lygus rugulipennis* and *Orius niger*.

**Jim Flanagan**

First record for Derbyshire (VC57): Grove Farm former landfill. Stanton-by-Dale (SK4538) on 18.vi.2014 (Jim Flanagan).

### ***Ortholomus punctipennis***

A strong colony found on lichen heath near Hersden, Kent (TR2061) on 24.vii.2014 (Tristan Bantock)



*Ortholomus punctipennis* ©T. Bantock

### ***Ischnodemus sabuleti***

New to County Durham (VC66) by Daphne Aplin from Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park in Billingham (NZ479255) on 11.vii.2014, when numerous nymphs and a small number of adults (including short-winged forms) were noted (Vasculum, Vol 99 [2014]). She also recorded the bug at the same location during the previous year. This record appears to be the most northerly in Britain. It has

been recorded in all the Yorkshire vice-counties with the exception of VC62 (North East Yorkshire) with the first known Yorkshire records dating from 1971 and 1972.

This species is also reported as new to West Lancashire (VC60) by David Manwaring from a site in Preston.

**Jim Flanagan**

### ***Scolopostethus pictus***

New to Shropshire (VC40): one adult found in litter by the Rea Brook, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury (SJ487104) on 10.iv.2014 (Nigel Cane-Honeysett). Details per Keith Fowler.

### ***Drymus pumilio***

Canvey Wick (VC18, TQ7783). Several adults suction-sampled from moss on 30.ix.2014 (Tristan Bantock).

### ***Megalonotus antennatus***

New to Yorkshire (VC63, South West Yorkshire) from a former colliery site, now known as Brodsworth Community Woodland where it was swept from dry grassland along a track at SE521076 by Stuart Foster on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

**Jim Flanagan**

### ***Rhyparochromus vulgaris***

Reported from a second Surrey (VC17) site (TQ2568) early in the new year (6<sup>th</sup> January) by Jovita Kaunang who photographed the specimen found in her house in Merton Park and sent it to Tristan Bantock who confirmed its identity. *R. vulgaris* was previously recorded from Surrey during 2011. There were other records of this notable groundbug made during 2014 when Tristan Bantock found it at Hackney Marshes (TQ3718), Middlesex (VC21) on two occasions (25<sup>th</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup> August) and from Wanstead Flats (TQ4086), South Essex (VC18) on 2 September.

**Jim Flanagan**

## **MIRIDAE**

### ***Globiceps fulvicollis cruciatus***

First record for Warwickshire (VC38): Several swept from Salix scrub at Bishop's Hill, Harbury (SP3958) on 9.vii.2014. (Tristan Bantock).

### ***Hallodapus montandoni***

Numerous adults suction-sampled from chalk grassland near Fort Halstead (VC16 TQ498588) on 21.vi.2014 (Tristan Bantock).

### ***Pachytomella parallela***

Numerous adults swept from chalk grassland near Fort Halstead (VC16 TQ498588) on 21.vi.2014 (Tristan Bantock).

### ***Hoplomachus thunbergii***

First record for Warwickshire (VC38): several swept from grassland at Bishop's Hill, Harbury (SP3958) on 9.vii.2014. (Tristan Bantock)

### ***Chlamydatus evanescens***

Second record for Derbyshire (VC57): Grove Farm former landfill, Stanton-by-Dale, Derbyshire (SK4538) on 18.vi.2014 (Jim Flanagan).

A small number of specimens were obtained from a hand search of frequent patches of flowering biting stonecrop *Sedum acre*. Sampling suggests the site supports a well-established population. The bug was previously reported from the county in 2001 from suction sampling of a site located in the Derbyshire side of Dovedale located not far from the Staffordshire border by A. P. Foster (Foster, A. P. & Howe, M. A., 2005, EMM 141:111-112). This site is some 1.5 km from Staffordshire records of the bug at Bunster Hill made during the 1930s where more recent searches failed to find it. The Stanton by Dale site is 33km to the south-east of the Dovedale site so may constitute a relatively new outlying population.

**Jim Flanagan**

## **TINGIDAE**

### ***Acalypta platycheila***

Suction-sampled from grassland at Isles Quarry, (VC16 TQ6056) on 15.v.2014 (Tristan Bantock)

## **Around the British Isles**

### **Dorset (VC9)**

#### **Recent records of Aquatic Heteroptera**

*Gerris lateralis*, Studland on 18.3.14, confirmed by Tony Cook. Since then I have found it to be quite widespread across the site in open reed bed edges although in small numbers. (Robert Aquilina)



*Gerris lateralis* ©T. Cook

*Aquarius paludum*, Little Sea (also Studland) on 2.9.14 although this has now been recorded in Dorset a half a dozen times. (Robert Aquilina)

## Kent (VC15 & 16) Heteroptera Records Update

This is a brief note on the status of Kent Heteroptera records housed at the Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre, Brogdale, Faversham. Two sets of records have been acquired over the past year to add to the existing computerised data sets compiled by local recorders. Following the death of Eric Philp in January 2013 (see Badmin, 2013), his widow Dorothy Philp, kindly invited KMBRC staff to visit her home and to download Eric's Kent biological records from his computer and to take away numerous files relating to the county's flora and fauna. The computerised records based on Recorder have now been integrated into KMBRC's main database which now stands at >5 million records.

The second event, proposed by Samantha Harris, Collections Manager of Maidstone Museum, was the transfer in July of all the filing cabinets and data files relating to the Kent Biological Archives from the Museum to KMBRC. The Archives were set up by Eric Philp when he was in charge of the Natural History section at the museum and cover the period 1971 to 1993. Staff at KMBRC are in the process of transferring the hand-written records to the main data base as and when time permits.

It is a very lengthy process, in no small part complicated by the many name changes to Het bugs that have occurred during the past 40 years. A large proportion of records are listed by tetrad only, but a significant proportion refer to particular sites, such as woods or SSSIs and this extra information needs to be stored as well.

So KMBRC has made some progress in collating Kent's Heteroptera records but there is a very long way to go. There are four key collections containing Kent Heteroptera, that have not been cross-checked, most notably the collections of Dr Arthur Masee and C.A.W. Duffield. We also have many literature records, including those of Masee (e.g. Masee, 1960) to incorporate into the database covering an earlier period. At present the total number of Heteroptera records stands at >26,000. I predict it will take us at least 10 years to compile all of the county's Heteroptera records, simply because the inputting of old records is secondary to modern records and the task of tracking down obscure reports. Of course it is very likely that Masee has already done the job for us (I hope so). Please send any new Heteroptera records for Kent to KMBRC via its website.

**John Badmin, Chair, Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre.**

### References

Badmin, J.S. 2013. Eric George Philip 1930-2013. *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* **26**(2): 109-117.

Masee, A. M. 1960. The Hemiptera-Heteroptera, Plant Bugs, recorded in the Parish of East Malling, Kent. *Transactions of the Kent Field Club* **1**(2): 83- 106.

## Bedfordshire (VC30)

### Main Features of The Year

The weather was better for Heteroptera in 2013, suffering less from ill-timed rains than last year. The important summer months provided a reasonable amount of warm sunny weather, after a cold spring. Compared with 2012 there were 30% more records and a few more recorded. However, this does not make good the 50% drop in records in 2012 compared with 2011! Only one species was added to the county list this year and that was a belated 2011 record.

Bedfordshire Heteroptera featured in an externally published paper this year. This presented the results of a study of bugs in flight at an altitude of 200m, where they were sampled by capture in a net suspended from a tethered helium-filled balloon at Cardington (Reynolds et al., 2013).

### Additions to the county list in 2013

*Aneurus avenius*: this bark-bug was found by Peter Kirby in the old orchard of Sandy Smith Nature Reserve, Chicksands during a site-survey for The Greensand Trust in 2011. He tells me that he found several adults and small nymphs by 'beating' a dead hazel branch, about three inches diameter.

### Comments on other species

Gerridae (water-skaters)

*Aquarius paludum*: this 'giant' skater has been known from the county since 2000, during this time it has been noted from 16 sites. Bromham Lake is one of these and the site warden, Peter Almond, has taken a special interest in them since they were first noticed in 2004. In particular, in 2006 he noted them on the Lake from the last week of April until the second week of November - the adults hibernate remote from water. It is interesting that occasional adults may be seen on quite small ponds, as on Flitton Moor where I have seen singletons in various years.

Nabidae (damselfly-bugs)

*Himacerus boops*: this was added to the county list in my report for 2011, on the basis of a specimen I swept on Sandy Heath. I have recently noticed that there is a possible earlier record, from Barton Hills during a 1983 site survey by an NCC survey team, reported in a 1989 document which I have been unable to locate.

During the year I made a special effort to search for three species which might be expected to occur here but have not yet been found here. One was the Bugle lace-bug, *Tingis reticulata*. Over the years I have often swept or searched the host plant in woodland rides in Beds, without success. I had heard that Bugle in more open sites is preferred, but Bugle is rarely found in such places in Beds. However, this year I noticed an abundance of Bugle in Fancott Meadow NR and made a point of searching it at the appropriate season - but unsuccessfully!

A recent addition to the British fauna is the plant-bug *Conostethus venustus*, the hosts of which are various mayweeds (*Matricaria* et al.), ubiquitous on disturbed ground. I searched a number of extensive growths of these this year, and last, without success. So far, British records are from the North Midlands, where it is already well established, so perhaps the bug arrived from the east rather than the south, thereby avoiding Beds.

The third species I endeavoured to find was the seed-bug *Eremocoris fenestratus*. Formerly known from Juniper litter on chalk hills in southern England it has not been found there for many years and was considered extinct. However, it was discovered recently in suburban west London, established on/under 'Cupressus' hedges. I have seen few suitable hedges in Beds but noticed one on the approaches to Sandy Smith NR, at Clophill. I made a special visit to search this but found virtually no bugs of any kind in the deep litter under the 100m long hedge, possibly it was too dry.

I have often complained about the traditional management of grassland based on the 'hay meadow' concept - it may benefit flowers but decimates the insect fauna! Since 2007 The Greensand Trust has provided me with the opportunity to manage an area of sandy grassland in the heathland enclave of the Maulden Wood complex for its insect fauna. For seven years now, it has been mown in March, cutting only alternate 2 metre wide strips, E-W in even years, N-S in odd years. In successive even years the strip cut is moved on one row, likewise for N-S cuts. The cuttings are stacked at the edge of the site. This simple procedure creates a diverse matrix of 2m square patches with several different management histories, a diversity of 'microhabitats' with the bonus that only 50% of the area has to be cut in any one year. The patches range from open ground with short fine grasses cut two years in succession, to patches of tall tussocky grasses uncut for two years; and the latter shelter the former from wind exposure. Other patches automatically receive intermediate treatments, adding to the diversity. Overall this management scheme produces a 'tartan' pattern. The benefits are nicely indicated by the shieldbug fauna of the site in 2013: *Eurygaster testudinaria*, *Aelia acuminata*, *Dolycoris baccarum*, and *Neottiglossa pusilla* were all breeding on the Maulden tartan grassland site. In the 1970s these species were virtually or actually absent from the county.

One more new species is still needed to reach a nice round total of 400 species for the county! I plan to celebrate that with publication of the current species-list for the county, the last was published in 1989 (Bedfordshire Naturalist 43).

#### References

Reynolds, D.R., Nau, B.S., and Chapman, W., 2013, High-altitude migration of Heteroptera in Britain. *Eur. J. Entomol.*, 110(3), pp483-492.

#### Acknowledgements

Unattributed records are normally my own, but my thanks for help &/or records go to the Beds Invertebrate Group, and the people mentioned by name in the text, as well as the increasing number of people who send me records, these are valued even if not explicitly mentioned.

**Bernard Nau**

**Reproduced from Bedfordshire Naturalist (2013)**

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## Gloucestershire (VC33 & 34)

### 2013

Whilst my recording activities through much of 2013 were disrupted somewhat it turned out to be rather a good year and the fieldwork I was able to carry out produced not only good numbers of the more common bugs, but several scarce species. The good weather no doubt influenced the success of many species which have been scarce in recent years.

There were instances at my residence in Woodmancot (SO9727) during early Autumn when several species were attracted, during hours of darkness, to light from either a moth trap or normal indoor lighting. Included were some of the common shieldbugs but also scarcer species amongst which were numbers of aquatic bugs thus representing just a minute sample of what must be vast numbers of insects dispersing or migrating at night just as birds do.

There are two new species to report, firstly the nationally rare *Chlamydatus evanescens*, which was quite unexpected and then *Dicyphus pallidus*, which had been anticipated, it being a rapidly increasing recent coloniser in Britain. Both are detailed in the following summary.

The most interesting finds are summarised, with comment as to county status, as follows:-

#### ***Aradus depressus***

##### ***Not uncommon but difficult to find***

Whilst sweeping roadside herbage near Slimbridge (SO7204) on 3 May I was surprised to find this Flatbug in the sweep net. Whilst not an uncommon insect it is not recorded very often, largely because of the difficulty of locating it owing to its life-cycle being almost exclusively under the bark of trees where it feeds on mycelia and fruiting bodies of fungi. It is normally only seen outside of this environment as an adult when dispersing in the spring.

#### **Box Bug, *Gonocerus acuteangulatus***

##### ***Recent coloniser – becoming established***

Whilst I was unable to search for this species until October, I then found it on just about all mature Box trees or hedges searched and there were new records from Woolstone (SO9530), Bagendon (SP0006) and Pitville Park, Cheltenham (SO9523). It is obviously well-established in the county now which is quite remarkable considering its extreme rarity in the UK until a decade or so ago.

#### ***Stictopleurus abutilon***

##### ***Recent coloniser – status to date rare***

First recorded in Gloucestershire in 2006 and then once in 2007 but no records since. Found again after a gap of 6 years near Twyning (SO8936) on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

#### ***Stictopleurus punctatonervosus***

##### ***Recent coloniser – status to date scarce***

Two records of this warmth loving species this year. Two were swept from trackside herbage near Great Rissington (SP1915) on 6<sup>th</sup> October and 3 from abandoned arable at Bishop's Cleeve (SO9628) on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

#### ***Berytinus signoreti***

##### ***Status rare***

This county rarity was found on Cleeve Common (SO9825) on 8<sup>th</sup> July. It is a species of calcareous grassland and sand dunes and whilst there is plenty of



suitable habitat there have been only four previous records for Gloucestershire.

### ***Chlamydatus evanescens***

#### ***New to county – status uncertain at present***

This was actually first discovered by Rob Ryan in 2012 and came to light through an article in the British Journal of Entomology and Natural History published in June 2013. He found two in Stonecrop, *Sedum* sp. on the edge of a road next to the disused airfield at Chedworth (SP0313). The species has always been regarded as rare in the UK (RDB3) but Rob has been finding it in other counties recently including adjacent Oxfordshire and the question has been raised as to whether it has been previously overlooked or is it a species responding to climate change. This tiny bug (c.2.5mm) is found on extensive areas of Stonecrops growing on stone walls, rocks and disused concrete surfaces such as old runways or roads etc., and although suitable surfaces are present in the county they do not usually support a sufficiently large area of *Sedum* to hold the insect. However, this year on 29<sup>th</sup> September, I did come across a c.4m X 4m patch of this plant growing on a long abandoned concrete surface at Waterhatch near Winchcombe (SP0325) and on searching a small sample I got a second county record when I found two specimens of the insect. The fact that it had not been found in the county before these records despite the presence of many competent entomologists and now two records occur in consecutive years suggests it is a comparatively new arrival and is in the process of range expansion.

### ***Dicyphus pallidus***

#### ***New to county- apparently already well established***

New to Britain in 2009 this species has been spreading quickly in southern counties. It has recently been recorded in the adjacent county of Oxfordshire and its early arrival in Gloucestershire was expected. I looked for it in 2012 without success but this year I got the first county record when, on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, I found it in some abundance in Bushcombe Wood, Near Woodmancote (SO9728). Thereafter, further searches revealed its presence in woods at Waterhatch (SP0325), The Warren, near Winchcombe (SP0526) and near Snowhill (SP0833). It is found on Hedge Woundwort, *Stachys sylvatica* growing in shaded areas (usually woodland). It would appear that it is already well established here.

### ***Cyrtorrhinus caricis***

#### ***Status scarce but probably overlooked***

This species is widespread in Britain but for some reason has always been scarce in Gloucestershire and this is borne out by the fact that there have only been three records since 1955. That said, I would guess it is probably overlooked. It was certainly quite unexpected to find at least 10 individuals of this insect in my house at Woodmancote (SO9727) on the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> August attracted to an indoor light near an open patio door. It is usually found at the bases of clumps of sedge and rushes which, so far as I am aware, are not present near my abode and the individuals involved were probably in the process of dispersal or migration.

### ***Saldula orthochila***

#### ***Uncommon but probably overlooked***

Whilst not uncommon nationally, this shorebug is not found in the county very often and there had only been five records since 1955, three of these being in a comparatively limited area of the Forest of Dean. Like other shorebug species it tends to partially jump rather than just walk and when, on 29<sup>th</sup> September, I saw an insect on my concrete patio in Woodmancote (SO9727) performing in this way I immediately suspected this species particularly as it is the only shorebug that occurs away from aquatic habitats. Upon trapping it, closer examination did indeed confirm that it was this species. It is only the fourth record for Gloucestershire.

### **Corixidae**

Due to the fact that circumstances meant that I could not do any fieldwork for much of the summer, I decided to try moth trapping in my garden at Woodmancote (SO9727) and so I invested in a moth trap. To my amazement there were several sessions in which I trapped not only moths but a wide range of aquatic bugs in the family *Corixidae*, collectively known as Lesser Water Boatmen. These bugs are usually found in pools, ponds, lakes or rivers and yet there are no such habitats nearby – not even a garden pond in any of the properties in my street. They were obviously attracted to light whilst dispersing or migrating at night. What was particularly surprising were the numbers involved and also the variety of species some of which are rarely seen in Gloucestershire. The first overnight session for my moth trap was on the night of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> August and this immediately saw a catch of seven. Various species continued to turn up in the trap fairly regularly up to 5<sup>th</sup> October and some nights produced high numbers, for instance, 17 involving 4 species on 30<sup>th</sup> August and 24 involving 3 species on 5<sup>th</sup> September. Species involved were:

*Callicorixa praeusta* (most abundant species)

*Hesperocorixa sahlbergi* (second most abundant species)

*Sigara dorsalis*

*Sigara limitata* (First record since 1938)

*Sigara lateralis* (only 7 modern records)

*Sigara nigrolineata* (only 6 modern records)

Because of the limited amount of interest in the aquatic bugs in the past and the consequential paucity of records the true status of these species in the county is unknown.

I would like to thank all those that submitted records particularly Phil & Chris Andrews, Lin Callard, David Haigh, David Iloff, Maris Midgley and Colin & Ingrid Twissell.

### **2014**

Whilst no new species for the county were recorded during 2014, the warm summer which followed an exceptionally mild winter resulted in high populations of many species, including some of which are normally regarded as being scarce here. An illustration of this comes from Maris Midgley's sightings in the Forest of Dean of huge numbers of the Dock Bug, *Coreus marginatus* in late August. Maris also had the most

significant find of the year of the nationally scarce Spurge Bug, *Dicranocephalus medius* which was the first county record since 2007. Also impressive were the number of reports in the year of the Brassica Shieldbug, *Eurydema oleracea* which almost doubled that of the previous ten.

A summary of the most important sightings are as follows:-

### **Pentatomidae (Shieldbugs)**

#### **Brassica Bug *Eurydema oleracea* County rare**

There have only been five modern records for this species since 2004 but 2014 saw a significant increase in sightings with records from near Gotherington (SO9628), Great Rissington (SP1916), Newent (SO7226) and near Bentham (SO9016).

#### **Heather Shieldbug *Rhacognathus punctatus* County rare**

In Gloucestershire, this species is restricted to a small number of locations in the Forest of Dean and this year produced just a single record at one of its known sites, Crabtree Hill I (SO6313), when an adult and a late instar were found on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Coreidae**

#### **Box Bug *Gonocerus acuteangulatus* Recent coloniser – becoming established**

Whilst only recorded at two new localities this year, at Woodmancote (SO9627) and Churchdown (SO8819), this probably misrepresents the true status of the species which is now likely to be well established throughout the county. Usually, to find this insect, it is necessary to carry out specific searches on its food plants (principally Box, *Buxus sempervirens*) which I did not get the opportunity to do during 2014.

#### **Dock Bug *Coreus marginatus* Status varies annually – records increasing**

This species had become hard to find during the series of cooler, wetter summers between 2007 and 2012 but the warmer conditions of 2014 resulted in the highest numbers ever recorded in the county. As alluded to in the introduction, there were two incredible sightings by Maris Midgley at Lydney in the Forest of Dean (SO6302) when she recorded 150+ adults and nymphs on 28<sup>th</sup> August but even this high number was exceeded on 31<sup>st</sup> when an amazing 200+ were seen. I know of no other UK record involving such remarkable numbers.

### **Stenocephalidae**

#### **Spurge Bug *Dicranocephalus medius* Nb County rare**

Maris Midgley found this rare bug on the flower of Wood Spurge, *Euphorbia amygdaloides* at Mallard's Pike (SO6308) on 19<sup>th</sup> May. Prior to this current sighting there had been only two previous modern records in 1998 & 2007. Whilst Maris was fortunate enough to come across this specimen on the top of the plant, it is known to be an insect which usually inhabits litter at the base and this may be why it is seldom found.

### **Lygaeidae**

#### ***Taphropeltus contractus* County rare**

Two were swept from low herbage near Great Rissington (SP1915) on 18<sup>th</sup> April. This was only the fourth modern county record and the first since 2008.

### **Miridae**

#### ***Miridius quadrivirgatus* Status uncommon but apparently increasing**

There were two records of this attractive grass bug, both at Bishop's Cleeve (SO9628). It is usually found in singles but an exceptional six were swept from one location on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

**John Widgery**

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### **Shropshire (VC40)**

Following the burst of training in terrestrial heteroptera locally last year there was no specific training given this year. However the recording of the group did benefit from the general increased knowledge and the opportunities for site surveys and visits given to recorders by Invertebrate Challenge. It was very satisfying to have been on many of these events and be approached frequently to confirm the identity of a bug.

#### **Shieldbugs and allies**

Over the year the number of records on the Shieldbug and Allies county list increased to nearly 3600 covering 31 species. In view of the large increase in the number of records I have produced an update of the provisional atlas. This does not attempt to be a second edition, it merely provides a refresh of the maps that have changed and an acknowledgement of the additional tetrads in which each species was found. Please let me know if you would like a copy.

#### ***Ceraleptus lividus* Stein, 1858 Slender-horned leatherbug, new to the county**

How satisfying it must be when a prediction comes true within a year of its commitment to paper! In the provisional atlas Pete Boardman suggested that this species may be coming our way. And so it turned out to be when John Bingham noticed that one of a group of *Coriomeris denticulatus* (Scopoli, 1763) Denticulate Leatherbug that Denise Bingham had located in the short grass sward of a meadow at Dudmaston looked different. He kept the bug and was later able to identify it as *Ceraleptus lividus* (see p.4). Unfortunately several further visits to the site have failed to find another specimen.

#### ***Legnotus limbosus* (Geoffrey, 1785), Bordered shieldbug**

This bug has rarely been recorded in the county so you can imagine the surprise when a group from the Strettons Area Community Wildlife Group turned over a reptile tile to find a colony of this bug underneath. I visited the site a few days later and they were about 20 under the tile. I understand that later in the year they lost out to ants.

### ***Rhacognathus punctatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Heather shieldbug**

This year saw the culmination of a personal quest for Maria Justamond when she was able to find and photograph this bug. A couple of years ago Maria was looking for it at Fenns, Whixall and Bettisfield Mosses NNR when she fell and badly dislocated her ankle requiring the Shropshire Air Ambulance to rescue her. So this find was a fitting reward for her endeavours.



*Rhacognathus punctatus* ©M. Justamond

### ***Eurygaster testudinaria* (Geoffroy, 1785) - Tortoise Bug**

The Wyre Forest was the only site where this bug has been found. Indeed an additional tetrad was added to its range in the Wyre Forest this year. But now it has turned up in the opposite corner of the county when J Fairclough found it by the main pool in the Dolgoth Quarry Nature Reserve near Llynclys.

#### Change of County Recorder

Following the publication of "A provisional atlas of the shieldbugs and allies of Shropshire" (ed. Boardman, 2004) I have taken over the responsibility for the recording of this group alongside the other terrestrial heteroptera.

#### **Plantbugs & allies**

2014 showed a continued interest in this group enabling us to add around 1200 records to the county list and bring the species count up to nearly 200. The records have included a number of potential firsts:

#### **Lygaeidae**

*Scolopostethus pictus* (Schilling, 1829) collected from litter by Rea Brook, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury in April 2014.

*Megalonotus chiragra* (Fabricius, 1794) collected from moss in a roadside verge at Devil's Dingle, Buildwas in May 2014.

*Megalonotus dilatatus* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1840) sifted from vegetation amongst the crags at Pontesbury Crags in September 2014.

*Peritrechus lundii* (Gmelin, 1790) found in a sandy area of an industrial estate in Bridgnorth in June 2012.

#### **Miridae**

*Charagochilus gyllenhalii* (Fallén, 1807) found in grassland during the Stiperstones bioblitz in August 2014.

*Chlamydatus wilkinsoni* (Douglas & Scott, 1866) located in short grassland on the Long Mynd in July 2014.

*Dichrooscytus gustavi* Josifov, 1981 found on an unidentified conifer in June 2014. A second specimen was found on a cypress at Pennerley in August.

*Dicyphus annulatus* (Wolff, 1804) located on restharrow during a bug hunt at the Beeches, Ironbridge in July 2014.

*Halticus apterus* (Linnaeus, 1758) collected from a meadow in the Wyre Forest in July 2014.

*Lygocoris rugicollis* (Fallén, 1807) found at Langley Fields in Telford in June 2014. A second specimen was taken from willow at Tilstock a couple of days later.

*Megalocoleus tanacetii* (Fallén, 1807) photographed at Atcham in July 2014.

*Pinalitus rubricatus* (Fallén, 1807) found at Pennerley in August 2014. It was taken from a fern in the vegetation bordering a lane.

*Psallus assimilis* Stichel, 1956 collected from a field maple bordering a path through the Rea Brook Valley in June 2014.

*Psallus pseudoplatani* Reichling, 1984 found on sycamore in Rea Brook Valley at the same time as the *P. assimilis* noted above.

#### **References**

ed. Boardman P. 2014. *A provisional atlas of the shieldbugs and allies of Shropshire*. FSC Publications, Telford.

**Keith Fowler**

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### **Suffolk (VC25 & 26)**

#### **Recent records of Aquatic Heteroptera**

In Het News 11, Spring 2008 I wrote about my first record of *Sigara iactans* made after re-examining specimens of *Sigara falleni* from Framlingham Mere TL288635, collected on 29/08/2001. That same year I found another population of *S. iactans* in the lakes at Center Parcs, Elveden TL799807. The population at Elveden have survived in good numbers, being found there on several visits, my last being on 20/8/2013. Also in 2013 I revisited Framlingham again for the first time and found *S. iactans* still in very high numbers. Strangely though I had not found the species at any other site in the county. However during a two year survey of Oulton Marshes near Lowestoft I did find a small number in two recently dug turf ponds near TM5036493036 on 30/9/2013, though none were found there in 2014. *Sigara iactans* seems to have not spread widely across Suffolk since its arrival in 2001 though two breeding colonies have been successful, both in heavily silted eutrophic lakes.

Another aquatic bug with a strangely similar story within Suffolk is *Aquarius paludum*. I first found a large colony of these skaters at Bixley Decoy Lakes TM20424293 on 5/8/2010. Despite much searching I found no more until I was sent a photo of a farm lake at Thurston, TL935656 on 29/8/2012. This showed literally hundreds of *A. paludum* easily identifiable by the rear abdomen projections. This colony has apparently been there for several years and continues to do very well. To date these are the only two breeding colonies recorded in Suffolk. However on

19/9/2014, the last day of my survey at Oulton Marshes I was sampling the last of the newly dug turf ponds when I spotted a single male. So in a similar fashion to *S. iactans*, *Aquarius paludum* has established at least two large breeding populations on similar lakes in different parts of the county. Small numbers also seem to be flying about looking at the Oulton turf ponds as new habitat, which indicates a possible third colony nearby.



*Aquarius paludum* predating Cranefly ©T. Goodfellow

Incidentally at Oulton on 30/9/2013 I found my first specimen of *Sigara venusta* in many years, I have 14 records before 1994 but none after this date until this year.

**Adrian Chalkley**  
County freshwater invertebrate recorder  
bas@boxvalley.co.uk

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## Ireland

It was a good year for Heteroptera in Ireland with dry weather predominating in the peak of the season. The following are some of the notable records:

### *Aquarius najas*

An apparently macropterous female was photographed on the River Bann just south of Portadown, Co Armagh this summer though this only became apparent when the photographs were examined. The photograph of another adult female showed it feeding on a *Psallus haematodes*. I am not aware of any previous occurrence of long-winged adults of this species.

### *Limnporus rufoscutellatus*

Adults were seen at the Montiaghs Moss and Brackagh Moss, Co Armagh in Northern Ireland. It was photographed at Brackagh Moss in April and seen at the same site in September an unusual multiple record from a single site.

### *Microvelia pygmaea*

An adult collected from a coastal wetland at the western end of the Dingle Peninsula, Co Kerry. Third recent Irish record.

### *Ischnodemus sabuleti*

Adults and immatures were seen at Ennereilly on the Co Wicklow coast in August. This is first Irish record since 1920s and a new locality for this species.

### *Conostethus brevis*

This was added to the Irish list based on a single female collected at Ballymacormick Point, Co Down. More specimens were found in 2014 including males which appear to be the first records since 1985. Most of the males and all the females conform in size to *brevis*, but at least one specimen approaches *griseus* in size and some of the diagnostic measurements given for it. I would be interested to hear of others experience with either species in Britain.

### *Macrolophus rubi*

This is a recent addition to the Irish list but partly based on specimens collected in the 1920s at Glengarriff Co Cork. It was found there again by Clare Heardman and I also collected it in Co Down. Otherwise only known from Co Armagh.

### *Rhacognathus punctatus*

Several were swept from a cutover bog in Co Kildare which is a new county record and the most southern record to date.

### *Leptoglossus occidentalis*

One was caught in a light trap at Kilkeel Co Down in early October by Mark Speers. This is 2<sup>nd</sup> Irish record and first for Northern Ireland.

A paper has been accepted for publication in the Irish Naturalists' Journal which will formally add *Macrolophus rubi*, *Macrolophus pygmaeus*, *Acetropis gimmerthalii*, *Megacoelum cf. beckeri*, *Megaloceroea recticornis*, *Lopus decolor* and *Anthocoris simulans* to the Irish list. Records are also provided of species which have shown range extensions or have been rarely recorded in Ireland. The issue of whether the new species have been introduced or overlooked is discussed.

(Nelson, B., Hermes, D. and Aukema, B. (2015) First Irish records for seven species of Heteroptera (Hemiptera: Miridae, Anthocoridae) and records of some rarely reported species. Irish Naturalists' Journal 34).

**Brian Nelson**

## COUNTY RECORDERS

Vice County No.	Vice County Name	Scope	Contact	Contact address
1 & 2	Cornwall, W & E	Inc. Scilly Is.	Keith Alexander	keith.alexander@waitrose.com
3 & 4	Devon, N & S		Keith Alexander	keith.alexander@waitrose.com
9	Dorset		Ian Cross	I.Cross@dorsetcc.gov.uk
10	Isle of Wight		David Biggs	Plum Tree Cottage, 76 Albert Rd, Gurnard, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 8JU
11 & 12	Hampshire, S & N		Jonty Denton	JontyDenton@aol.com
13 & 14	Sussex, E & W		Graeme Lyons	graemelyons@sussexwt.org.uk
15 & 16	Kent, E & W		Jonathan Barnard	KentshieldbugAtlas@gmail.com
16-21,24pt	LNHS recording area	20 mile radius from St Pauls	Tristan Bantock	tristanba@googlemail.com
17	Surrey		Jonty Denton	JontyDenton@aol.com
18 & 19	Essex, S & N		Peter Kirby	peter.kirby7@ntlworld.com
20	Hertfordshire		Joe Gray	joegray.uk@googlemail.com
22 (part) & 23	Berkshire & Oxfordshire		John Campbell	campbell397@btinternet.com
25 & 26	Suffolk, E & W	Aquatic hets	Adrian Chalkley	adrian@boxvalley.co.uk
25 & 26	Suffolk, E & W	Terrestrial hets	Nigel Cuming	nigelcuming330@btopenworld.com
27 & 28	Norfolk, E & W		Robert Coleman	mail@rob-coleman.co.uk
30	Bedfordshire		Bernard Nau	nauhet@btinternet.com
32	Northamptonshire		Tony Cook	tony.cook20@btinternet.com
33 & 34	Gloucestershire, E & W		John Widgery	johnwidgery@waitrose.com
37	Worcestershire		John Partridge	records@wbrc.org.uk
40	Shropshire		Keith Fowler	keith.c.fowler@blueyonder.co.uk
53 & 54	Lincolnshire, S & N	Shieldbugs & allies	Annette Binding	allan.binding@ntlworld.com
53 & 54	Lincolnshire, S & N	Other terrestrial hets	Colin Smith	Csmith@countrywidefarmers.co.uk
53 & 54	Lincolnshire, S & N	Aquatic hets	Richard Chadd	richard.chadd@environment-agency.gov.uk
55	Leicestershire & Rutland		Dave Budworth	dbud01@aol.com
56	Nottinghamshire		Dave Budworth	dbud01@aol.com
57	Derbyshire		Dave Budworth	dbud01@aol.com
58	Cheshire		Steve Judd	Steve.Judd@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk
59 & 60	Lancashire, S & W		Steve Judd	Steve.Judd@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk
61 & 62	Yorkshire, SE & NE		Stuart Foster	stuart@blackdan6.plus.com
63	Yorkshire, SW		Jim Flanagan	jimflanagan@btopenworld.com
64	Yorkshire, Mid-W		Stuart Foster	stuart@blackdan6.plus.com
65	Yorkshire, NW		Steve Hewitt	SteveH@carlisle-city.gov.uk
69 & 70	Westmorland		Steve Hewitt	SteveH@carlisle-city.gov.uk
70	Cumberland		Steve Hewitt	SteveH@carlisle-city.gov.uk
	Ireland (all)		Brian Nelson	brian@entomology.org.uk

### ORGANISERS OF THE NATIONAL HETEROPTERA RECORDING SCHEMES

**Aquatic Heteroptera (Waterbugs & allies):** Tony Cook (tony.cook20@btinternet.com)  
**Terrestrial Heteroptera (Plantbugs & allies):** Jim Flanagan (jimflanagan@btopenworld.com)  
**Terrestrial Heteroptera (Shieldbugs & allies):** Tristan Bantock (tristanba@googlemail.com)

### GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING RECORDS

- Spreadsheet format preferred (e.g. MS Excel)
- One record per row
- Essential columns:
  - 1-species name| 2-date (dd/mm/yyyy)| 3-site name| 4-grid ref(XX#####)| 5-VC| 6-recorder| 7-determiner|
- Desirable columns:
  - abundance | age | sampling method | habitat | plant associations