

NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORDS FOR HEMIPTERA - 2009

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Since the last Hemiptera report (Biggs, 2008) five new species have been recorded on the Isle of Wight, four Homopterans and one Heteropteran.

HOMOPTERA

PSYLLIDAE

Trioza galii (Förster, 1848)

This is a Jumping Plant Louse in the same family as the Bay Leaf Sucker and the Oleander Leaf Sucker. This species is confined to Crosswort *Cruciata laevipes* and Bedstraws *Galium* spp., and Field Madder *Sherardia arvensis*. I found some incurved leaves of Cleavers *Galium aparine* 31.5.2009 at Ninham Farm, Shanklin SZ 570825. Within the rolls were the flattened nymphs of a psyllid which I could not identify. I sent the specimens to Dr J.C. Ostojá-Starzewski of the Central Science Laboratory, York who was able to identify them to species. This species is known to induce artichoke galls of the terminal leaves of the host plant and the gall is reported to be common but has as yet not been found on the Island.

DIASPIDIDAE

Unaspis euonymi (Comstock, 1881)

The Euonymus Scale

One of the Armoured Scales, the body is enclosed by a hard horny scale. Many species are serious pests of citrus and other fruit trees, greenhouse crops and house plants. This species is a local pest of ornamental spindles, especially Japanese spindle *Euonymus japonica* in the south of England. However I found a massive infestation on a planted hedgerow of European spindle *E. europaeus* at Werrar SZ504928 25.8.2008. With multiple yellow spots on the upper leaf surfaces the whole hedge appeared startlingly different. The insects were found on the lower leaf surfaces and clustered on the stems. Females are 2-3mm long, brown and mussel-shaped. Males are 2-2.5mm long white and elongate with three longitudinal ridges. It is widely distributed in southern Europe.

COCCIDAE

Lichtensia viburni (Signoret, 1873)

The Viburnum Scale

As its English and Latin names imply this scale insect is associated with *Viburnum tinus* but the so far only record on the Island for this species was from a cultivated and variegated Ivy *Hedera helix* found 15.6.2009 by Tony Redfern in a garden in Newport SZ4989. Females were present, fleshy and golden-brown 3-5mm long and bearing 5mm long white waxy egg-sacs almost covering the adult insect. Unlike the previous species, the Viburnum scale produces copious amounts of honeydew and upon which dense dark mats of fungal hyphae develop – the so called “sooty moulds”.

CICADELLIDAE

Macrosteles variatus (Fallén, 1806)

The Entomological Section of the Society held a field meeting in the churchyard of Wellow Baptist Church SZ384882 10.6.2009. I took several examples of this leaf hopper while sweeping coarse vegetation. Leaf hoppers feed on phloem or xylem sap or cell contents. The worldwide economic

importance of leaf hoppers is enormous with plant – and crop – damage occurring by their removal of sap and cell contents, by their toxic saliva, by vascular obstruction and by their introduction of viruses and mycoplasmas. They are small slender-bodied creatures, tapering towards the rear end and with long hind legs modified for leaping. This species is 4-4.5mm long, a dirty yellowish-green colour with brownish-grey markings, with a yellow face and four black spots on the vertex. It is described as being never numerous but widely distributed, possibly associated with nettles, often in woodland, in England as far north as Yorkshire and found across Europe, Asia and North America.

HETEROPTERA

COREIDAE

Leptoglossus occidentalis (Heidemann 1910) The Western Conifer Seed Bug

Originally native to conifer forests west of the Rockies this species of squash bug began to spread eastwards, being found in Iowa in 1956 and reaching New York in 1990. It was then spread by ship-borne timber to Italy in 1999 and was found in Weymouth in 2007. In 2008 numerous adults were found at moth traps along the Channel Coast and James Halsey in Bonchurch found two adults in his house 13.10.2008 and 25.10.2008. Sam Knill-Jones took two 27.10.2009 and 30.10.2009 at Totland and Dave Dana found a last instar nymph in his house in Wroxall 26.10.2009. This is the first record of breeding in the U.K.



A large bug, 20mm. long with a rich brown body with a black and white chequered edge to the abdomen and a large leaf-like expansion on the hind tibia, in its native habitat it is a pest of conifer nurseries, feeding on the flowers, developing cones and seeds of especially Pines and Douglas Fir. It is interesting that three of the local records have been from within houses because in North America they are considered a pest because they enter buildings in winter sometimes in their thousands.

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