

## NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORDS FOR HEMIPTERA - 2010

**Dr D.T. Biggs**

Since the publication of the last Hemiptera report in 2010 eight new species of Hemiptera have been recorded here, three of Homoptera and five of Heteroptera.

### **HOMOPTERA**

#### **CICADELLIDAE**

*Kybos butleri* (Edwards, J. 1908)

A probable female of this species was taken by Ian Boyd 4.10.2009 from Willows beside the river Yar at Sandown SZ581852, and photographed. This is a strongly built leafhopper, green and brown and shiny, 4.0 -4.3 mm in length and which is only found in moist habitats on Willows. Found in the south and southwest of England, in Yorkshire and Lancashire and across Europe into Siberia, it has also been introduced into Colorado.

*Grypotes puncticollis* (Herrich-Schaeffer, 1834)

This species is described as locally common on Pines in coniferous forests and on solitary trees throughout southern England and north to Yorkshire. It is a slender leafhopper 4.2 - 5.00 mm long, basically a brownish-yellow in colour with some darker markings. It is widespread in Europe and is also found in North Africa. Ian Boyd took a specimen and photographed it at the Field of Hope, Newchurch SZ5685 on 20.9.2009.

#### **DELPHACIDAE**

*Prokelisia marginata* (Van Duzee, 1897)

Ian Boyd swept large numbers of this planthopper from Cord-grass, *Spartina* at Fishbourne SZ554929 on 15.9.2009. Photographs were taken and the insect identified by Dr Joe Botting. This species was recorded as new to Britain from specimens collected from Southampton Water in July 2008 (Wilson & Muhlerthaler, 2009). Badmin and Witts (2009) showed that it existed in large numbers along the north Kent coast. It is native to the eastern U.S.A. The insect is 3-4 mm in length, a very pale brown in colour with translucent wings and with four dark longitudinal stripes on its face. The combination of feeding damage by this planthopper and infection with the ergot fungus *Claviceps purpurea* might well have an adverse effect on our *Spartina* colonies.

### **HETEROPTERA**

#### **ANEURIDAE**

*Aneurus laevis* (Fabricius, 1775)

This is a barkbug, an extremely flat but relatively broad insect which lives beneath tree bark, feeding on the mycelium and fruiting bodies of fungi. It is a dark red-brown in colour and 4.3 - 5mm in length. Reported to be widely distributed in England and not uncommon in the south, it is found throughout Europe to Asia Minor and across Asia to Siberia and also in Morocco. A specimen was found and photographed by Ian Boyd during the very successful "Bio-Blitz" in Firestone Copse SZ5591 on 2.6.2010.

## **MIRIDAE**

### ***Capsus wagneri* Remane, 1950**

In the Red Data Book for Hemiptera (Kirby, 1992) this bug is classified as Notable. Jonti Denton, an entomologist from the Mainland swept adult males from upper transition saltmarsh on Brading Marshes SZ6389 on 24.6.2009. Identification was confirmed by B.S. Nau. This species was not recognised in Britain until 1954 when it was recorded from Cambridgeshire and Yorkshire. Subsequently it has been found in Somerset, Norfolk, Northants, Hunts., Lincs., Yorks. and Sussex. It lives on Reed Canary-grass and perhaps other grasses in Fens and damp shady places. It is an entirely black insect 5.5 - 6.1 mm in length with the second antennal segment much thickened towards the apex. It is considered very local and rare but possibly under recorded. Elsewhere, found in Germany, the Netherlands and the Czech and Slovak Republics.

### ***Hallodapus rufescens* (Burmeister, 1835)**

At the "Bio-Blitz" held in Firestone Copse 2.6.2010 I swept a nymph of an ant-mimic bug from low vegetation beside the main drive in SZ5591. There are two species of *Hallodapus* in England and no keys to the identification of the nymphs. B.S. Nau, the national recorder for Heteroptera identified this bug to species for me. Both bugs of this genus are associated with ants and they are most commonly found running on the ground at dusk. This species is ant-like in shape, reddish brown in colour and 2.5 - 4.00 mm in length. It is associated with heathland habitats throughout the British Isles, throughout Europe and across Asia to Turkestan and Siberia.

## **RHOPALIDAE**

### ***Stictopleurus abutilon* (Rossi, 1790)**

This is a broad, stout, dark yellowish-brown bug with a pale pronotal dorsal line with the apex of the scutellum more or less spatulate, and with dark transparent wings. It is 7-8 mm long. Ian Boyd found a specimen and photographed it at the Field of Hope, Newchurch SZ565855 on 26.9.2009. The host plants are Composites especially *Senecio* spp. There is a record from Kent in the 1880's and then one from Surrey in 1948. It was then considered extinct in England but by 1998 it was found to be widely distributed in the southeast of England from Dorset to Kent, and in Worcs. It is widely distributed in Europe but absent from the extreme north. It is a species of dry, open and sunny localities.

## **STENOCEPHALIDAE**

### ***Dicranocephalus medius* (Mulsant & Rey, 1870)**

There are two British species in this genus and because of their feeding habits they are known as spurge bugs. This one feeds on Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*. Ian Boyd found and photographed one in Firestone Copse SZ5591 on the "Bio-Blitz" day 2.6.2010. It is a large bug 8-11 mm in length, basically dark brown with conspicuously light and dark annulated antennae, legs and edge of abdomen. It also has a curiously bi-lobed front to the head. Found in the southern counties and in the southern midlands of England, across southern Europe to Asia Minor and Turkestan, it is a vector of a protozoan disease of spurges, caused by a flagellate organism of the genus *Phytomonas* which is closely related to the organisms which cause sleeping sickness and Chagas' Disease in humans.

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