

AN ACCOUNT OF SOME NEW ISLAND SPECIES OF
HETEROPTERAN BUG FOUND IN WILSON FRAZER'S COLLECTION

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E.A. Butler published an account of the Heteroptera of the Island in Morey's Guide to the Natural History of the Isle of Wight (1909). Additions to the Heteropteran fauna were published in the Proceedings in 1997, 1998 and 2001 (Biggs, D.T.)

In 2004 the author was able to examine a collection of 477 Island Heteroptera made by Wilson Frazer as well as to read his field notebooks. The result has been that twelve new species of Heteropteran bug have been added to the Island list.

Wilson Ray Frazer, OBE was an expert amateur entomologist and one of the country's leading authorities on crickets and grasshoppers (Pope, 2005). He retired to the Island in 1939 to be near two of his sons, one of whom Oliver was and still is renowned as having been probably the greatest teacher and enthusiast for natural history the Island has had since the time of Morey himself. Wilson Frazer spent holidays on the Island from 1934 and collected specimens of Heteroptera from 1934 to 1956. He died on 3rd October 1963, aged 90 years.

The account which follows is of the twelve species of Heteropteran bug found on the Isle of Wight, not described by Morey nor in the three papers by Biggs. Wilson Frazer's collection is now held in the Society's headquarters at Salisbury Gardens, Ventnor.

A table of Heteropteran bugs for all English counties was published by A.M. Masee in 1955. In this table Hampshire and the Isle of Wight were considered as one county. Each of the following species was included in Masee's list for "Hants & I.W." But no record has been published of them previously for the vice-county of the Isle of Wight.

PENTATOMIDAE

Picromerus bidens (Linnaeus, 1758)

Freshwater one specimen 9.10.1944

This is a predatory shield-bug, widely distributed throughout Britain though local in distribution, apparently preferring three distinct habitats, heathland, chalk downland and marshy areas. It is a typical shield bug in shape but with two long spines extending on either side from the thorax. It is bronze-green in colour with red legs and antennae, and 10-12mm in length.

LYGAEIDAE

Gastrodes grossipes (Degeer, 1773) (= *Gastrodes ferrugineus* in WRF)

Freshwater two specimens 8.1933 and 8.1934

Bouldnor one 23.8.1937

Freshwater, Tennyson Lane three 12.8.1941

Freshwater one 27.4.1956

This is called the Pine-Cone Bug as Scots Pine, *Pinus sylvestris* is its main host plant although it can also be found on Norway Spruce and other species of pine. It is found throughout Britain. Between 5.9mm. and 6.8mm. in length this is a very wide and flat chestnut-red bug with a black head and antennae, and chestnut legs.

SOME NEW ISLAND SPECIES OF HETEROPTERAN BUG

Rhyparochromus pini (Linnaeus, 1758) (= *Aphanus pini* in WRF)

Parkhurst forest one specimen 26.8.1935

Found in the midlands, southern England and south Wales in sandy heathy places. This is a grey and black bug 7.0 – 7.7. mm. in length and it is a seed-feeder. Its status is defined as Nationally Scarce or Notable. It is usually encountered on pine litter in summer or under bark in winter.

TINGIDAE

Dictyla convergens (Herrich-Schäffer, 1835) (= *Monanthia humuli* in WRF)

Freshwater marsh two specimens 3.8.1937

This lace-bug is recorded from much of Britain but is local and is confined to damp and swampy localities and margins of ponds, its host-plant being Water Forget-me-not , *Myosotis scorpioides*. It is a small bug 3.4 – 4.0 mm. long, pale yellowish-brown with darker brown and black markings.

Physatocheila costata (Fabricius, 1794) (= *Monanthia quadrimaculata* in WRF)

Freshwater one specimen 24.8.1940

Freshwater, one specimen, from Hawthorn 3.9.1940

Another lace-bug of the same size as the previous species, the usual habitat of this one is lichen-covered Apple Trees. It is defined as Notable or Nationally Scarce. Very local and possibly declining. As are most lace-bugs it is of various shades of brown, with the tips of the antennae and the tarsi black.

NABIDAE

Nabis ferus (Linnaeus, 1758).

Newtown one specimen 12.8.1934

Tennyson Down one 8.8.1935

Bouldnor one 25.8.1937

The Field Damsel Bug. Pale greyish-brown with a black and yellow scutellum, a black longitudinal stripe on the head and thorax, densely pubescent with silvery hairs and with legs with brown spots, this predatory bug is elongate and 8.0-8.5mm in length. It is found throughout the British Isles amongst grass in fairly dry conditions.

MIRIDAE

Capsodes gothicus (Linnaeus, 1758) (= *Lopus gothicus* in WRF)

Alverstone two specimens 9.6.1938

This bug is generally found by searching at the roots of coarse vegetation growing in marshy situations, especially amongst Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil, *Lotus corniculatus*. It is black, 5.8 – 7.00 mm in length, with long black erect hairs and with an orange scutellum and cuneus. It is found throughout England.

Heterocordylus tibialis (Hahn, 1833)

Alverstone two specimens 5.6.1938

Found throughout the British Isles and common on Broom, *Cytisus scoparius* and when present is usually found in considerable numbers. It is a dull black bug, 5mm in length, clothed in a pubescence of both simple black hairs and yellowish flattened scale-like hairs. The tibiae are a light reddish-brown.

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Megaloceraea recticornis (Geoffroy in Fourcroy, 1785) (= *Megaloceraea linearis* In WRF)

Newtown	one specimen	4.8.1935
Arreton Down	one	5.8.1935
Newtown	one	24.8.1936

This grassbug is an elongated and elegant species, 8.0 – 10.00 mm. long, bright green with yellow antennae. It is reported to be local but abundant where it occurs. It is found at the margins of woods where the grass is long and uncut, favouring False Brome, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*.

Phytocoris dimidiatus Kirschbaum, 1856 (= *Miridius dimidiatus* in WRF)

Arreton Down	two specimens	5.8.1935
Freshwater	one	6.9.1936
Freshwater marsh	two	24.8.1937
Tennyson Down	one	11.7.1941

6-7 mm. in length and elegantly shaped, pale brown with darker brown mottling with very long antennae and banded legs, this insect is widely distributed in the British Isles on deciduous trees, especially oak, apple and plum.

Pilophorus perplexus (Douglas & Scott, 1875) (= *Pilophorus cinnamopterus* in WRF)

Freshwater	one specimen	9.8.1936
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With a black head and thorax, a chestnut-brown body with a very distinctive transverse band of silvery hairs and chocolate-brown wings this bug is an ant mimic and it preys on the aphids which the ants attend. It is small, at 4.5 mm and only known from the south of England.

Polymerus palustris (Reuter, 1905) (= *Poeciloscytus vulneratus* in WRF)

Alverstone	one specimen	9.8.1938
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Found throughout southern England, this insect feeds on Common Marsh-bedstraw, *Galium palustre*. Mainly black with the apex of the scutellum and the cuneus yellow, this bug is 4.5 – 5.0 mm. in length. Whilst preparing this account I came across an earlier record of this insect on the Island. E.A. Butler in his *Biology of the British Hemiptera-Heteroptera* (1923) has the following: "I found one male and one female amongst rushes in a wet field just outside the town of Carmarthen, and one female at roots of rushes at Rookley Wilderness (Isle of Wight)". [No date given.]

Pseudoloxops coccineus (Meyer-Dür, 1843) (= *Loxops coccinea* in WRF)

Freshwater	one specimen	20.8.1934
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This is a flat, oval bug 4.2 – 4.5 mm in length, pink with red antennae, and found on Ash, *Fraxinus excelsior* where it is thought to feed on the seeds. It is found throughout England.

Teratocoris antennatus (Boheman, 1852) (= *Megaloceraea antennatus* in WRF)

Freshwater Marsh	one specimen	3.8.1937
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With Sea Club-rush, *Bolboschoenus maritimus* as its main food-plant this bug occurs throughout England and Scotland in marshes and swamps, especially near the coast. The specimen referred to and labelled as this species had disintegrated and I was unable to confirm its identity.

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