

# CISFBR

CORNWALL AND ISLES OF SCILLY FEDERATION OF BIOLOGICAL RECORDERS

## Interesting Find

Sunday 7 August 2011 observed a small grey fly bring a male *Haematopota pluvialis* (Horsefly/ Cleg) to the ground in front of me. The small fly was riding on the back of the Cleg. There was no struggling involved. Once on the ground, the fly moved around to the eyes of the Cleg and inserted its proboscis between the head and body.

Took them in and put them under a microscope, watched them for a period of 45 mins while the fly systematically probed its proboscis through the outer skin of the Cleg between the tergites, or where the legs are attached to the thorax, and vigorously appeared to suck out the contents.



Having started behind the eyes over the period of 45 mins it worked its way right down to the tip of the abdomen, but only making one hole to suck from at each of five places and working its proboscis around inside the cover the entire inside of the Cleg. I have not yet, and probably will not be able to ID the small grey fly involved.

*Bernard Hocking.*

[Nice to see this cleg getting a taste of its own medicine. Keep up the good work *Diptera incognita!* – Ed.]

## Western Conifer Seed Bug widely reported in 2010

The Summer 2010 *CISFBR Newsletter* reported Paddy Saunders' discovery of this N American pest species at Murraytown on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2009. Paul Gainey also reported a sighting of this species at Sennen Cove in the same year. During 2010 the species was seen much more widely, with at least 13 localities reported, across the whole county from St Buryan to Torpoint, and from 21<sup>st</sup> September onwards. It seems likely that there will be another autumnal influx from across the English Channel in 2011. All reports have been of the adult bug, often flying into houses – they are attracted to lights. Some at least appear to be attempting to overwinter, even becoming active again in heated rooms in midwinter, but it remains to be seen if any survive through to the spring and begin to breed here.

*Keith Alexander*

## CISFBR AGM 2011

The AGM started at around 1.15pm, with 22 members of CISFBR present. After apologies, the minutes of the 2010 AGM were circulated and read and were accepted. There were no matters arising. The Chairman and Treasurer gave their reports for the year (see below). At election of the committee the officers were all prepared to stand again and the committee

was voted in en bloc. The officers for 2011 are - Chairman Rosemary Parslow, Vice-Chairman Colin French, Secretary Ian Bennallick, Treasurer and membership secretary Matt Stribley Newsletter Editor Malcolm Lee. Committee Election of the rest of the Committee was en bloc. Always in need for 'fresh blood' for the committee, Frances Chapman and Jayne Herbert were voted on and no existing members stood down. The committee also includes – Tony Atkinson, Chris Haes, Bernard Hocking, Loveday Jenkin, Gary Lewis, Catriona Neil, Treve Opie, Sue Scott, Adrian Spalding, Pamela Tompsett. Corresponding Committee Members - Jacqui Davey, Tim Dingle, Chris Page. The AGM ended at 1.40pm

*Ian Bennallick*

## Chairman's report – Rosemary Parslow

The last year seems to have been a quiet one. Two meetings were cancelled due to few members being available and not much to discuss. Perhaps after the extremely busy time with the Red Data Book (RDB), etc., the year seemed especially uneventful?

There is a general concern as to what affect the recession may have on organisations in Cornwall, particularly those with we have close relationships such as ERCCIS. Gary Lewis has promised to keep us up-to-date with ongoing developments.

The RDB broke even earlier in the year so any additional sales are profit, to be shared between ERCCIS and CISFBR. The Fern Atlas was passed to Glynn Bennallick to DTP and redesign ready for publication. Ian also looked into printing but found we would have to go outside Cornwall for this due to the cost. Some money had been sent in as part of the pre-publication offer. Some were getting anxious about the delay in receiving the book.

Keith Alexander's report on 'The Barkflies and Booklice (Psocoptera) of Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly had been prepared by Colin French. A few printed copies were to be offered with a PDF available via ERCCIS & CISFBR websites [http://www.ercis.org.uk/publications/Publications\\_to\\_Download/index.htm](http://www.ercis.org.uk/publications/Publications_to_Download/index.htm).

Erica had been going from strength to strength, with 185,000 records added in 2010.

The planned date for the AGM was changed to 2 July. This would not only be a better day for the outdoor part of the event, but would enable the Chairman to be present.

*Rosemary Parslow*

## CISFBR Summer Meeting

### Recording Easily Identifiable Invertebrates

This year's Summer Meeting arose from some comments made by Ken Preston-Mafham, who is systematically surveying 1 km squares in East Cornwall for Flowering Plants and Ferns, Fungi and a range of invertebrates. He observed that, for quite a few invertebrate species, their known distribution in Cornwall was governed largely by the geographic spread of his own recording activity – for some species it appeared that they were widespread and common in East Cornwall and very rare in West Cornwall – and this undoubtedly gave a false picture of their actual distribution. So, to help rectify this skewed situation, it was decided to hold

a Summer Meeting to highlight a number of invertebrates that can be accurately and confidently identified and hopefully stimulate recorders, who specialise on other groups, such as vascular plants, to expand their taxonomic coverage.

The three speakers tasked with picking out and talking about a range of suitable candidate invertebrates were Tony Barber, Ken Preston-Mafham and Gary Lewis. All three gave short illustrated talks on the identification of a selection of easily identifiable species highlighting the key characters to look for, especially what makes them unmistakable, where and when to search for them and how best to find them. Tony Barber concentrated on his speciality – many-legged beasts – millipedes, centipedes, etc., which were described in intimate detail; Ken Preston-Mafham enthused about a wide range of invertebrates including spiders, frog hoppers, aculeates, etc. accompanying his identification accounts with exquisite photographs; and Gary Lewis gave more of an overview of the importance of filling in the recording gaps followed by a further group of invertebrates to search for.

Some of the invertebrates discussed were:

- *Cercopis vulnerata* a Froghopper, 9-10mm long, black with red spots, found in May/June on Meadowsweet, Brambles and Rosebay Willowherb.
- *Bombus pascuorum* a brown bumblebee. Can identify if more than 2 miles from coast. Has stripes on back end with brown thorax.
- *Platyarthus hoffmannseggi* the Ant Woodlouse. Tiny white and only in ant nests. It is blind.
- *Blaniulus guttulatus* Spotted Snake Millipede. Thin, white with lots of red spots. Common in gardens.
- *Ligia oceanica* Sea Slater. Big, greyish, long antennae and found on rocky shores.

The meeting was held at Cubert Village Hall and was followed, after a break for lunch and the CISFBR AGM itself, by a field meeting at Rushy Green where those present were able to benefit from the expertise of the speakers who helped in the search for some of the invertebrates described earlier in the day. Despite a dry period beforehand and the very warm and sunny day, some of the invertebrates species seen by Ken Preston-Mafham at Rushy Green included - the spiders *Pisaura mirabilis* and *Xerolycosa miniata*; the Robberflies *Dysmachus trigonus* and *Philonicus albiceps*; the Stiletto fly *Acrosathe annulata*; the Tephritid fly *Xyphosia miliaria* on Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*); the Bumble-bee *Bombus lapidarius*; the Bugs *Tingis cardui* – a lace bug on Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), *Zicrona caerulea* – blue shield bug, *Liocoris tripustulatus* – on Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and *Orthops campestris* – on Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*). We were all impressed by the huge numbers of *Tyria jacobaeae* (Cinnabar Moth) larvae munching away at most of the Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) plants on the dunes. However as Ken said it was very dry to find many species. Ken was also on the lookout for any fungi, especially microfungi on dead vegetation, as some of these are host-specific. He found nine species, including two new for Cornwall - *Hysteropezizella valvata* and *Belonium psammicola*, both on dead marram. The meeting should also help update some of the sites records for the National Trust, who are glad to receive updated records for their properties.

It is intended that the descriptions given by the three speakers

*I. coleoptratus* has a contrasting heavily pigmented dark zone just below the vertex which is absent in *I. muscaeformis*.”



Above: Male *Issus coleoptratus* Below: Female *Issus muscaeformis*



*I. coleoptratus* is known across the southern counties of England. *I. muscaeformis* has a western distribution, from Cornwall to Cumbria. So, do both species really occur in Cornwall, and how widespread are they? The Southern *Issus* has a strong association with ivy, although can also be found on the foliage of a wide range of trees and shrubs. It also lives on ivy in gardens – I have found it in my Exeter garden. The Western *Issus* has mainly been found in open oak woodland situations, often associated with yew, where present. The purpose of this note is both to announce the presence in the county of the Western *Issus* and to ask recorders to look out for any *Issus* and to keep specimens so that they can be checked by an expert. Nymphs and adults have been found on the foliage of trees and shrubs all year round; the final moult into the adult stage appears to occur in late May and early June.

Keith Alexander

#### Articles For Future Newsletters

If you have news, articles or photos of interest to CISFBR members, please send them to the newsletter editor –

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**Gullrock**  
**Port Gaverne**  
**Port Isaac**  
**Cornwall**  
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(please note new e-mail address – update your address book)

Sending articles by e-mail as a WORD document is easiest, but any other format, or a typed or hand written article will always be very acceptable.

#### Evidence for Four-banded Longhorn beetle in Cornwall at last!

Following my note in the Summer 2009 *CISFBR Newsletter*, Steve Jones has provided evidence for the existence in Cornwall of Four-banded Longhorn *Leptura quadrfasciata*. He photographed one near Bealsmill along the River Inny on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2008. This is the first evidence I have personally been able to confirm first hand. This species develops most often in old decaying stumps of birch or willow in very damp situations, and so the river valley situation of this record is very typical. In contrast, Hornet Longhorn (more recently referred to as the Golden-haired Longhorn) *Leptura aurulenta* is more widespread and develops particularly in large decaying oak stumps. Interestingly Four-banded Longhorn was found last year on Red Moor, where it was photographed by Sue Scott on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, so it is clear that both species are present in VC2 at least. Hornet Longhorn is currently known from 17 10km squares throughout Cornwall, including many from VC1.

Keith Alexander

#### CISFBR Officers for 2011/12

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**Committee:** All the above plus Tony Atkinson, Frances Chapman, Chris Haes, Jayne Herbert, Bernard Hocking, Loveday Jenkin, Gary Lewis, Catriona Neil, Treve Opie, Sue Scott, Adrian Spalding, and Dr Pamela Tompsett. *Corresponding members:* Jacqui Davey, Tim Dingle & Dr Chris Page

#### The county Hemiptera List – some additions and rediscoveries

Not surprisingly, publication of a county list merely sets a baseline for future recording. Almost immediately overlooked species are discovered or re-discovered, and new species arrive. A few additions to *The Land and Freshwater Bugs (Hemiptera) of Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly* (CISFBR & ERCCIS Occasional Publication No. 2, 2008) were mentioned in the Summer 2009 *CISFBR Newsletter*. Western Conifer Seed Bug has not only immediately appeared but it has begun to dominate the records received!

Six other species can now be added to the list with the discovery of one more recent arrival and five species presumed to have been previously overlooked. Another North American species, Rhododendron leaf bug *Tupiocoris rhododendri* was first found in Britain in the early 1970s and has now been found near Mylor by Paul Gainey in August 2010. The two mistletoe bugs *Anthocoris visci* and *Psylla visci* were both found in the traditional apple orchard at Cotehele by Andy Foster in September 2009. This orchard has been surveyed for its insects on previous occasions so either these bugs were less evident at the time or else they have arrived more recently – it is impossible to be sure either way. Two additional leafhoppers have also been reported. *Xanthodelphax stramineus* is a widespread species of dry grassy places and is presumed to be an overlooked long-term resident. It was found near Porth Chapel, St Levan, by Joe Botting in August 2010. The Nationally Scarce plant hopper *Oncodelphax pullula* is a

speciality of peat bogs and fens across the north and west of Britain, and is an important discovery for Cornwall. Paul Gainey found it at Carkeet Farm on Bodmin Moor in June 2010. It is thought to feed on sedges. Nymphs of a shore bug not previously known from the county were found at the same site by myself during the Cornwall Invertebrate group field meeting there on 28<sup>th</sup>