

Hornet Longhorn or Four-banded Longhorn? How sure are you?!

I have recently been looking through the county records for the Hornet Longhorn *Leptura aurulenta* (recently referred to as the Golden-haired Longhorn) and Four-banded Longhorn *L. quadrifasciata* beetles. The two are superficially very similar and could easily get confused. Cornwall is also perhaps unique in Britain for having the Hornet Longhorn relatively common and the Four-banded very scarce! Hornet Longhorn is currently reported from 15 10km squares across the county, whereas Four-banded has been reported from just six. And some recorders only see one of the two and other recorders only the other. Only one recorder has reported both species. So I am suspicious.

The key identification features are:

	Hornet Longhorn	Four-banded Longhorn
<i>Front & basal margins of pronotum</i>	Fringe of dense golden yellow hairs	No distinctive fringe, just a thin cover of fine black hairs
<i>Leg colour</i>	Partly red or yellowish-brown	Black



Hornet Longhorn egg laying – note partly red legs.
Inset shows golden hairs (picture – Paul Brock)



Four-banded Longhorn – note black legs

I would be interested to hear from recorders if they have voucher specimens or photographs, so that we can clear the issue up, and discover whether or not Four-banded Longhorn truly occurs in the county.

Keith Alexander

The history of Cornish seaweed observers

One of the delights of dabbling in rock pools is to meet scuttling crabs, glistening anemones, darting fish and a whole range of amazing shells. All of these are set amongst a colourful array of seaweeds, red, green and brown, which provide shelter and food for so much of our marine fauna both on rocks and fringing our creeks.

Over 640 British seaweed species have been identified; some 400+ occur in Cornish waters and nearly 300 different species have been found within the Helford VMCA. Who are the people that have made these discoveries?

The very first published work on British seaweed was prepared in Cornwall. This is not so surprising when the geographical position of Cornwall is considered, together with its rias, different aspects and varied geology, offering a multitude of rock pools. Indeed experts on the study of marine Algae, such as Dr Juliet Brodie in the Natural History Museum have recently extolled the richness of the far South West of Britain. It follows that Cornwall has attracted national specialists for much of the faunal, floral and fungal groups. However, John Stackhouse went a step further and adopted a small west-facing cove in Mounts Bay and built Acton Castle so that he could have easy access to what has become known as Stackhouse Cove (SW5428). His illustrated work on *Nereis Britannica* was first published in 1797.

In the 19th century, extensive, annotated collections were formed by R. W. Smitham and R. V. Tellam, and two large albums of pressed specimens are in the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro. Some years ago these were loaned to J. H. Price, then in the Botany Dept of the Natural History Museum.

R. V. Tellam published a list for East Cornwall in the *Penzance Natural History and Antiquarian Society* and in the same year (1884) and in the same publication John Ralfs included a list for West Cornwall.

The published compilation taking account of all previous sources for the 19th and 20th centuries, including the compilation by E. M. Holmes is in *The Victoria History of the Counties of England* (1906).

J.H. Price himself made extensive lists and collections from many Cornish shores. He undertook extensive recording on the shores of the Lizard peninsula and published this in two parts in *Cornish Studies* No 7 (for 1979) and No. 8 (for 1980). One co-author was a Museum colleague, S. Honey and the other was C. E. Hepton who made previous records available as well as taking part in fresh field work. Also included are the Helford surveys initiated by the Helford VMCA by Pamela Tompsett and the Cornish Biological Records Unit arranged by Stella Turk.

2003 saw the publication of a national Atlas and Seaweed Checklist for Britain and Ireland by Gavin Hardy and Michael Guiry but this unfortunately missed many records

from Cornwall and as is the way of published checklists there are many more additions needed immediately.

In 2006 the HVMCA Group published *The Marine Algae of the HVMCA*, a checklist with records of the date and place of seaweeds found.

Geographically the Helford River fits comfortably within a single kilometre square on the Ordnance Survey map. So this is assuredly the place to state that this square arguably has more species of seaweed than any other British square.

If you have a beginners interest in seaweeds, the various and readily available Pocket Guides are helpful. More precise identification information can be found on-line and in detailed publications from the Natural History Museum and Field Studies Council.

Dr Juliet Brodie will be visiting Cornwall again at the lowest tidal cycle in June 2009 and there will be opportunities to join her workshops. Please email Pamela petomp@bioscope.demon.co.uk if you are interested and wish to book a place.

Stella M Turk & Pamela E Tompsett

Cornwall's Living Churchyards Project

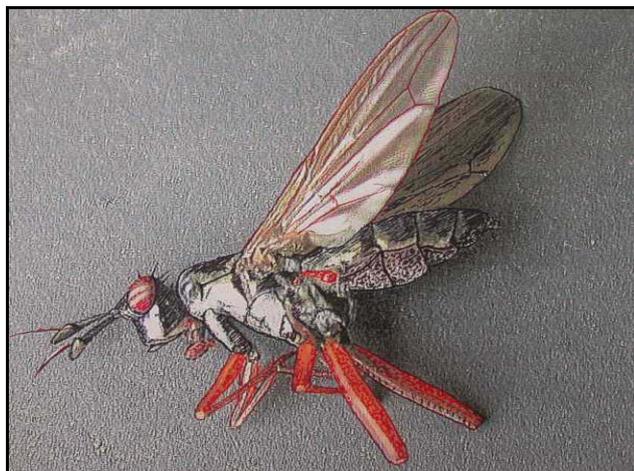
Calling all recorders and recording groups ... many churchyards lack up-to-date biological records and these are important to highlight the wildlife value of churchyards and enthuse local people. So, if you are recording in a particular area, whether it's for mosses, lichen, fungi, vascular plants, birds, mammals or inverts, don't forget to include the churchyard!

Please contact the project's voluntary co-ordinator, Robert Moor beforehand on 01872 272929 or by e-mail to rmoor@penmoor.co.uk

Robert can let the church warden know that you intend to visit and when you pass your records back to the record centre please do a separate species list for the churchyard so we can pass it back to Robert and the church.

Some recent Diptera records from W. Cornwall.

Diptera are ignored by most recorders, I'm sure, because of the difficulty in establishing any name to record them by. Fools tread where angels fear to go, I think that's where I step in.



SCIOMYZIDAE. *Sepedon sphaega* Rosspannel Farm 03/07/2008

Wing length. 8 mm.

Host. Thought to be slugs and snails.

Only a couple of other records from 1980s on ERICA from Lizard area. (The above image is photo enhanced by hand

using felt tip pen) The unusual antennae are the important feature to aid identification.



TACHINIDAE. *Eriothrix rufomaculata* St. Uny church 02/08/2008

Wing length. 6 mm.

Very common but under-recorded. Have seen them all around W. Penwith but little is known about breeding etc. Many similar, easily confused.



TACHINIDAE *Thelaira nigripes* Cape Cornwall 04/08/2008

Wing length. 9 mm.

Host. Lepidoptera, mainly ARCTIIDAE and LASIO-CAMPIDAE

Only other records in ERICA from W. Penwith are from the St. Ives area. Could be confused superficially with the more common *Mesembrina meridiana* because of the orange base to the wings, and being of similar size.

Bernard Hocking

Good and bad timing for some overlooked bugs (Hemiptera), and a new arrival

With the publication early in 2008 of *The Land and Freshwater Bugs (Hemiptera) of Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly* (CISFBR & ERCCIS Occasional Publication No. 2) it was only a matter of time before significant additions needed to be made. However - in this particular case - an overlooked rare bug was discovered while the review was going to press! The Nationally Scarce plant bug *Globiceps fulvicollis cruciatus* (Miridae) was found on the NT Chapel Porth property on August 22nd 2007. Luckily its timing was better for the forthcoming 2nd edition of the Red Data Book! It is a species of wet or humid heaths and dune slacks, where it is associated with low-growing willows *Salix* spp, particularly creeping willow *S. repens*. It is largely ground-living and omnivorous, feeding mainly on

other invertebrates, but also climbing to feed on plant material. Its British distribution is very patchy – it is very thinly scattered in the south-east, largely coastal in the west, and absent from large areas of the midlands and north.

Not to be outdone, another rare bug came out in 2008, again in time to appear in the RDB but missing *OP2*. Paul Gainey discovered the shieldbug *Sehirus biguttatus* (Cydnidae) in Bonallack Wood, September 3rd 2008, while he was searching for a rare weevil. Last recorded in the county in the *Victoria County History*, this is a very local and little known species, feeding on the seeds of common cow-wheat. It likes actively coppiced woodland - the resulting open-canopied areas stimulate vigorous flowering and seed-set of the cow-wheat. It is no surprise that it has undergone a severe decline through changing woodland management practices. Minimum intervention is a shady death to a species like this!

There are three species of small plant bugs which are found on the flower-heads of umbellifers. The bright green *Orthops campestris* (Miridae) is no problem, but the two duller species *O. basalis* and *O. kalmii* can only reliably be identified by dissecting males. *O. basalis* was only added to the GB list in 1973 and so does not appear in the standard published identification guides. *O. 'kalmii'* has been on the Cornish list since 1888 when it was reported from the Isles of Scilly by James E. Mason, on holiday from Lincolnshire. It has been recorded from a thin scattering of sites across the county since then, but these records may of course include overlooked *O. basalis* – a somewhat, but not very noticeably, larger species. I wasn't aware of this problem until after publication of *OP2*. I recently found some dull Cornish *Orthops* in a box of unidentified bugs – where difficult specimens are left for future examination - and, judged by size alone, I had one specimen of each species. Unfortunately my '*kalmii*' from maritime grassland with *Daucus* near Portquin is a female, but the '*basalis*' from a shady stream with *Oenanthe crocata* near Cotehele is a male and therefore can be confirmed as this species. It is clear that an effort is now needed to keep material of dull *Orthops* from umbellifer flowers, in a variety of situations, in order to clarify the distribution of the two species.

One further species was found in the box of shame, the seed bug *Nysius senecionis* (Lygaeidae) found at Portreath in August 2007. This bug has been spreading from south-east England since it was first discovered in Sussex in 1992 and so is a very recent arrival in the county. It is one of the few *Nysius* species that is relatively easy to identify (under a microscope). It is supposedly associated with open sheltered situations on freely-draining soils - and most often found at ragwort blossom in the south-east - but on this occasion was found on the maritime therophyte zone at the brow of a seacliff in just the sort of place that the currently more widespread *N. ericae* occurs.

Keith Alexander

Eelgrass – flourishing in the Helford

The seagrass (*Zostera marina*) or eelgrass beds off Durgan Beach on the Helford are an important sub feature of the Fal and Helford SAC and the extent of the beds has been mapped over the years by various volunteers from the Helford VMCA. Seagrass beds are an important habitat for the juvenile of a number of fish and invertebrate species and the Helford bed is also protected by two marker buoys

which help to stop visiting yachtsmen from anchoring in the bay and potentially causing damage.

As part of the regular monitoring programme of the SAC, I and some volunteers from Cornwall Wildlife Trust (to whom I say a big thank you for all your efforts) came down to the Helford on the good boat EVA on the 17th July to see how the seagrass was getting on and to see if it had spread into the adjacent moorings. Although the weather was not perfect and the visibility not good, the team were able to carry out three transect swims measuring the percentage cover of the plants, makeup of the seabed and were also able to map the edges of the bed.

Preliminary analysis of the data show that the seagrass is in good health and that the extent has not changed significantly from the previous survey. However, there is some evidence that the seagrass has spread slightly westwards and isolated clumps can now be found in and around the moorings.

I hope that we will be able to repeat this study next and subsequent years and also include some more detailed work on both the health of the seagrass and a more accurate survey of the density and individual plant length of the grass on the Helford. Until then though, I am happy to report the seagrass on the Helford is continuing to flourish.

Kevan Cook, Natural England

Trunk Calls – news about barkflies

The barkflies are the outdoor equivalent of booklice (Psocoptera) and feed on algae, lichens, and other organic debris encrusting plant surfaces and exposed rock. Most are associated with trees, especially the trunks and branches. They tend to be overlooked or just ignored by entomologists, but are a fascinating group of insects and well worthy of study. I got the bug many years ago but until recently hadn't had the opportunity of developing the interest. Since moving to the south-west, however, I have started to make more time available – having escaped the brain-knotting effects of bureaucracy I find I have much more energy and time.

There has been a Royal Entomological Society Handbook (Volume 1, Part 7) available since 1974, and this has recently (2005) been completely revised and up-dated. But, if one is able to cope with French, the best text is actually *Psocoptères Euro-Méditerranéens* (1998, Faune de France 83) since there has been a steady stream of species colonising GB and we already have one that does not feature in the 2005 Second Edition of the RES Handbook – *Atlantopsocus adustus*, endemic to the Atlantic islands of Madeira, the Canary Islands, and the Azores. One of the larger species too, with a body length of about 3.5mm and a wingspan of 4 - 5mm.

I first recorded *Atlantopsocus adustus* in Cornwall at Porthcurnick in August 2002 but didn't believe my eyes, and neglected to get expert confirmation until after I had found it widely on coastal scrub four or five years later. The discovery of a population on streamside elms on the seacliffs at Lanteglos in 2006 was properly confirmed by the GB authority, Bob Saville, and 2007 saw it much more widespread, with records from the coastal zone at Zennor, Camborne, St Agnes and Gerrans, always on broad-leaved willows *Salix* spp, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, or gorse *Ulex europaeus*. In 2008 I found it inland on a wider variety of trees and shrubs at Godolphin and Lanhydrock. This raises the question – was the coastal colonisation,

followed by spread inland, a reality or a figment arising from the pattern of my own recording? Certainly I was recording elsewhere in the county in 2002, including the Fowey creeks at Lanteglos, as well as coastal cliffs near Tintagel and St Just, but found none at those sites. I was also actively recording across the county at the right time of year in the following years, so this does suggest a genuine recent colonisation of the coastal zone followed rapidly by a spread inland. The species has also recently been reported from Sussex and Dorset.

The next question is, of course, how did it get here? We may never know, but there are two main possibilities. Could sufficient have been naturally carried in south-westerly winds from the Atlantic islands to establish breeding populations? Certainly aerial drift is well-known amongst aphids – insects of similar size and shape to barkflies. The more obvious alternative is casual importation with trees and shrubs via the horticultural or forestry industries. But casual imports would not be expected to show the pattern of colonisation I have already described. So my best guess rests with the south-westerlies.

Keith Alexander

CISFBR Spring meeting and AGM

The CISFBR 2009 Spring Meeting and AGM was held on Saturday 2nd May at Fraddon Village Hall. The theme of the meeting was ‘Historical Botanical Recording in Cornwall’ chosen to mark the 100 years since the publication of Frederick Hamilton Davey’s milestone 1909 publication the *Flora of Cornwall* and over thirty people attended.

We were first treated to a splendid talk on Davey by Keith Spurgin. With copious notes and many historic photos Keith told us of Davey’s early life, his interests and the efforts he made in producing the Flora. Despite an early illness, which plagued his health throughout his tragically short life (he died at 47 years old), Davey held down a very demanding job whilst managing to collate records from fellow botanists and record in all the far-flung corners of Cornwall, an amazing effort considering the limitations of travel at the time. The Flora was a culmination of this collation and recording and a very enjoyable read it still is, especially when you can find a plant growing in exactly the same place as Davey recorded it. Keith added so many interesting asides and facts of Davey’s life and work that the audience was enraptured!

Keith (with Selina Bates) has written a biography of Davey called *Stars in the Grass - The Story of the Cornish Naturalist Frederick Hamilton Davey, 1868-1915* (ISBN-10: 1850220972) where much of the information and photos can be found and it is thoroughly recommended.

The second talk was from the recorders of the Botanical Society of the British Isles for West Cornwall (Colin French) and East Cornwall (Ian Bennallick). Colin illustrated some of the changes in the flora of Cornwall since Davey’s time, by reporting on an analysis of the records of plants extracted from Davey’s Flora and comparing them with the records made since then. Colin showed that there was a steady increase of records up until the publication of the Flora (to 1909); understandably this has become our baseline of what was known up until that date. Some more recording was carried out until the publication of the Supplement to the Cornish Flora (Thurston & Vigurs, 1922) and then recording over the war years stagnated. There were small upsurges of recording effort in the late 1950s and 1970s, and with the

introduction of computerisation of entering data and records by the late 1980s, this led to a huge upsurge of records until the present, to the stage that we are almost at our 1 millionth plant record for Cornwall! Colin demonstrated that it was possible to use the records from Davey’s Flora and compare with more recent records to assess increases or decreases of a species in Cornwall and Ian followed on Colin’s presentation by giving examples. Ian explained that where a species was described in Davey (1909) as “very common” throughout Cornwall, it was difficult to assess change as no sites were listed for these in Davey (1909) to compare with the present. Some very rare species which occurred in only one or two sites in Davey’s time and still do also do not show underlying trends. It is the species where Davey listed each site that we can see changes if any. Despite a few moments of technical difficulties, Ian used ERICA (the recording database for Cornwall) to show interactive maps of the species which illustrated the changes most dramatically. Native species such as Shining Crane’s-bill (*Geranium lucidum*) which was considered by Davey as “rare” is now widespread and appears to be increasing its range. However Annual Knawel (*Scleranthus annuus*) which Davey thought of as “locally plentiful” has suffered huge declines since the mid-1960s and is now only in three sites. The alien Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) was known from only five sites in Davey’s time, but now we know how widespread and abundant it can be! Some alien species have declined, most notably the archaeophyte species (those intentionally or unintentionally introduced before AD1500) of arable fields such as Shepherd’s-needle (*Scandix pecten-veneris*) which was “locally plentiful” according to Davey but is now restricted to one hedge near Newquay. Some species are more difficult to assess due to their restricted range usually to habitats. Heath Rush (*Juncus squarrosus*) which Davey described as “very local” can be abundant and is found in almost every 1km square on Bodmin Moor. There is much more to do in assessing changes within Cornwall but none of it could be done without Davey’s initial Flora.

Rosemary Parslow, recorder of the Botanical Society of the British Isles for the Isles of Scilly, rounded off the morning by talking about the changes of its Flora in the last 100 years. Though Davey never visited the islands, he included records for the Isles of Scilly in his Flora. It was not until J.E. Lousley published his Flora of the Isles of Scilly in 1971 that a comprehensive list of species with sites was made available, though as Rosemary pointed out many of the records were from visits made many years before. Some other recorders did not write down what they saw on the islands, so when Rosemary took over as recorder for the islands in the 1990s, it was a huge task to sort what actually grows there and in effect had to start from scratch. Rosemary has over the years visited all of the islands and islets which have vegetation (except one) at least once. Rosemary explained that some species which are common on the mainland can be very localised in Scilly including Wild Thyme (*Thymus polytrichus*) and Betony (*Stachy officinalis*). An additional complication is that many alien species suited to the mild climate have become established away from gardens in the islands, so though some native species common in Cornwall are rare or absent, Scilly has a huge amount of alien species ‘gone wild’. One such species which has become thoroughly naturalised is Pittosporum, initially planted for sheltering bulb-fields; the sticky seeds loved by birds have been spread by them to the uninhabited islands, and it now grows in natural rock

crevices. The biggest recent and rapid change in Scilly is the change from growing bulbs in fields to growing grass for grazing cattle. The distinctive autumn germinating 'weed' Flora associated with the regularly cultivated bulb-fields will probably be a distant memory very soon. Rosemary also explained that the climate appears to be affecting some extremely rare species. Some sites of Shore Dock (*Rumex rupestris*) which grows in seepages at the head of stony or rocky beaches, have been completely washed away by more severe storms, and the only site for Dwarf Pansy (*Viola kitaibeliana*) on Bryher has been washed over with storm debris, and is perilously close to extinction. Rosemary is working on a new Flora of the Isles of Scilly which should be ready soon!

The talks ended for a quick lunch before the CISFBR AGM. The AGM started at around 1.30pm, with 15 members of CISFBR present. After apologies, the minutes of the 2008 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 2009 are -

Chairman Colin French

Vice-Chairman Rosemary Parslow

Secretary Ian Bennallick

Treasurer and Membership secretary Matt Stribley

Newsletter Editor Malcolm Lee

Committee Election of the rest of the Committee was en bloc. No new members were voted on and no existing members stood down. The committee 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 2pm

Chairman's Report

The past year has been a very busy one for the CISFBR Council. This has been mainly due to the *Red Data Book of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly*, which a majority of the Council have been involved with. Preparations for the Red Data Book itself began in 2007 when it was realised that it was ten years since the publication of the first Cornish Red Data Book and so many things had changed in the Conservation World in the intervening decade that a second edition was warranted. Most of the original authors agreed to contribute again and where there were gaps, authors with the necessary expertise were found. The second edition is even more comprehensive than the first, with sections like the Fungi given fuller treatment and an increase in the number of species discussed due to changes in the way species of conservation concern are designated (according to threat levels instead of just rarity). As a result the second edition is much larger: B5 instead of A5 and 100 pages longer. This volume has been edited by a panel of editors (mostly CISFBR Council members), whereas the original Red Data Book was edited solely by Adrian Spalding. What a mammoth effort that must have been! Thankfully, the Desk Top Publishing of the *Red Data Book of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly* will be finished in the next few days following this AGM and then despatched to

the printer. Its launch will be on 30th June in the Hall for Cornwall and all CISFBR members are invited. Deserving thanks are due to everyone who has contributed to this Red Data Book – the authors, the editorial panel, the DTP operative, those who typed up various manuscripts, sorted out the bibliography, liaised with the printer and the Cornwall Council (who awarded a grant towards the printing costs), plus Catriona Neil who managed the flow of manuscripts and editor's responses, and Spalding Associates who supplied an excellent selection of biscuits at the editorial meetings.

CISFBR Council meetings have been well attended with full agendas to discuss. At each meeting a report is received on the continuing progress at ERCCIS, field and indoor meetings are planned and items of concern to the biological recording community discussed at length. Reports are also received from Council members who represent CISFBR on other bodies such as the Advisory Board of ERCCIS. Presentations were also welcomed by Jodene Williams from ERCCIS on data verification/validation and Shelagh Garrard from CWT on Health and Safety issues, especially concerning organised events.

Unfortunately, both planned field meetings in 2008 had to be called off due to the weather. It is hoped that there will be a summer in 2009 and we succeed in holding some outdoor meetings.

Malcolm Lee deserves special thanks for the excellent newsletter he produces. Now that the Red Data Book is out of the way, I for one must furnish him with material to help fill future newsletters and help keep our membership informed about the activities of CISFBR. We are a small but very active group, and it would be disadvantageous to CISFBR if all those activities remained unsung.

The last AGM saw the launch of Keith Alexander's *Land and Freshwater Bugs (Hemiptera) of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly*. This important work has been well received and has sold steadily during the year, such that CISFBR has now broken even on the publication costs. It is hoped to publish further treatises on the Cornish fauna and flora in future.

It is intended that CISFBR will have its own website this summer. This has long been talked about at Council and a window of opportunity for its development has opened now that the Red Data Book is finished. So look out for www.cisfbr.co.uk in the coming months.

Finally I would like to thank the other Council members for all their contributions during the past year and look forward to another fruitful year ahead.

Treasurer's Report (inc. membership report)

This year I have reported the accounts based on the membership year, i.e. to year end 31 December. During 2008 the final balance transfer from the 2 accounts we previously held with Barclays took place. This amounted to a sum of £522.55 resulting in a year end balance of a healthy £1,870.91.

Without the Barclays balance the net change in balance over the year was an additional £10.65. The main single item of expenditure was when we paid £706 towards the publication cost of the Hemiptera check-list but this was offset by a contribution of £350 from ERCCIS and the sale of publications generating an income of £671.49.

We now bank with the RBS. Recently it came to light that there was a deposit of £50, made up of various membership

cheques, which was mis-handled by RBS. The bank never presented the cheques but have now returned them to myself as they are out-dated due to their error. I am now in the process of writing to those members concerned and I will also be applying to the RBS for financial compensation.

Interest receipts of £18.01 were realised in 2008. These will be reduced to a few pounds in 2009. The first quarter interest in 2009 is only £0.65.

CISFBR Accounts (period 8/3/08 to 31/12/08)

Income £

Subscriptions	£260.00
Interest	£18.00
Publications	£671.49
Donations (tea & coffee, etc)	£10.65

Total Income **£960.15**

Expenditure

Newsletter production. and distribution.	£57.92
Meeting Publicity	£0.00
Meeting Room hire	£55.00
Expenses	£0.00
Publications (including distribution. costs)	£836.58

Total expenditure **£949.50**

Income less Expenditure **£10.65**

Balance B/F from 7/3/2008	£1,337.71
Final balance from Barclays	£522.55
2008 Income less Expenditure	£10.65
Total in Account	<u>£1,870.91</u>

Membership

Membership in 2008 stood at 65, comprising 59 paid members, 2 partners of paid members, and 4 honorary members. This compares to a membership of 64 in 2007 (honorary 4, paid members 60).

Matt Stribley

ENCEPHALITIS

Last November I contracted Encephalitis, probably from a tick bite. Due to the potential severity of this virus I feel duty bound to warn members about it. The virus began with a fever – high temperature, headaches and an aversion to light. This was wrongly diagnosed to be a bacterial infection and I was put on antibiotics which had no benefit at all. After a couple of days the fever abated, however, I began to act and think strangely. The virus causes a swelling of the brain causing hallucinations and I entered an ‘Alice in Wonderland World’ where I did not know who I was or where I was and yet to me it seemed quite normal and logical for time to start shifting - going into reverse for parts of the day when I was able to watch birds fly backwards in the garden and hear all traffic drive in reverse. On my third visit to the doctor it was then realised that something was seriously wrong and I was sent straight to Treliske Hospital. Treatment began just in time because within two days I was in a comatose state in intensive care not expected to live. I am extremely lucky to have survived and to have fully recovered (although the recovery took five months). So, if you are aware of having been bitten by ticks, or are unaware of tick bites and have been out in the

field, and you develop a fever with high temperature, headaches and an aversion to light consult a doctor and mention the fever could be fieldwork related and the possibility of tick bites. If your behaviour becomes abnormal get help quick!

Colin French

Diary Dates

(BCG): *Botanical Cornwall Group*: Ian Bernallick 01726 890384

(CBC) *Cornwall Butterfly Conservation*: Phil Boggis 01726 66124.

(CIG) *Cornwall Invertebrate Group* Sue Scott 01872 240777 x 240 or sues@cornwt.demon.co.uk

(HMC) *Helford Marine Conservation* Pamela Tompsett

AUGUST

Sunday 2nd Pentewan (BCG): A walk along the coastal path to Hallane and perhaps to Black Head. Meet in car park in Pentewan, SX018472 at 9.30am.

Monday 3rd Windmill Farm, The Lizard (CIG): Start at this CWT/CBWPS managed flagship reserve, and then move onto North Predannack Downs CWT Reserve SW 679 169, a much less accessible and under recorded area of the Lizard. Meet at Windmill Farm SW 694 153 at 10am.

Saturday 8th Kynance Cove (CBC): Be prepared for a beautiful walk at this famous locality for Lepidoptera. Meet at SW688132 (near the toilet block) in main Kynance Cove Car Park at 11am.

Saturday 15th Marazion Marsh (BCG): A chance to record the flora around the RSPB Reserve. Meet at entrance to reserve SW51293111 at 9.30am.

Sunday 16th Swanpool and Falmouth (BCG): Recording around the local nature reserve (www.swanpool.org.uk) and local area. Meet in car park, SW801312 at 9.30am.

Tuesday 18th Marsland Valley (BCG): Summer walk in Nature Reserve. Meet at SS217169, along track NE of Marsland Manor at 9.30am (Parking limited)

Sunday 23rd Prisk Cove, south of Rosemullion Head (HMC): Explore the shore with marine expert Ruth Williams. Meet at Mawnan Church SW 788 272 at 1.30pm at the end of Old Church Road.

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 2nd Penhale Camp (CIG): Joint meeting with Penhale Camp Conservation Group. A rare chance to access the restricted area, where we hope to find the Stripe-winged Grasshopper at its only Cornish location, as well as the rare Musk Beetle. Please contact Sue Scott if you wish to join us. Meet at 10am. Arrive at the camp entrance (SW 764584) to be directed to the car park.

Sunday 6th Bats near the Helford River (HMC): An evening talk at Mawgan and a walk (weather permitting) at a bat site on the south side of the Helford River. Cost £2. Booking essential (*contact Martin 01326 561952*). Meet at Mawgan Recreational Hall SW 702 244 7.30pm.

OCTOBER ONWARDS

Saturday 17th October The Private Life of Cornish Seals (HMC): Sue Sayer of the Cornwall Seal Group. Cost £2. Gweek Village Hall, beside the Seal Sanctuary SW 709 266 at 7.30pm.

Saturday 14th November Diving Bahamas and Helford (HMC): Tony Sutton will show the beautiful underwater worlds of the Bahamas and the Helford River. Cost £2. Mawgan Recreational Hall SW 702 244 at 7.30pm.

Saturday 5th December Wreck and Torpedoes to Coastwatch (HMC): Paul Phillips and Jack Sechler recount

the fascinating story of Nare Point. Cost £2. . Gweek Village Hall, beside the Seal Sanctuary SW 709 266 at 7.30pm.

Saturday 23rd January 2010 Cornish Dolphins (HMC): Dr Nick Tregenza will tell us about the current state of research and issues involving dolphins, porpoises and whales in Cornish waters. Cost £2. Gweek Village Hall, beside the Seal Sanctuary SW 709 266 at 7.30pm.

New Red Data Book Of Rare And Scarce Wildlife Of Cornwall And The Isles Of Scilly

First produced in 1997, the Red Data Book was a comprehensive account of the rare and scarce wildlife species found in the region. This was - and still is - the most comprehensive local red data book in Britain, and the first edition has proved to be an essential reference for all those interested in wildlife.

A second edition has now been produced by members of CISFBR, in association with ERCCIS, and with support from Cornwall County Council, the new edition lists many additional species, including some new to Cornwall and some rare ones refound - species include local specialities such as Cornish Moneywort, Cornish Bladderseed, Cornish Sandhill Rustic and the Cornish Path Moss.

To get your copy, the price is £18.50 plus £5.00 p&p (*it weighs over 1kg*), and is obtainable from –

**Cornwall Wildlife Trust
Five Acres
Allet
Truro
TR4 9DJ**

Please make cheques payable to **Cornwall Wildlife Trust**.



Red Data Book Launch, Hall for Cornwall, Truro 30th June 2009
Back Row (l-r): Derek Lord, Adrian Spalding, Colin French, Paul Gaine and Trevor Renals. Centre: Chris Haes, John Worth, Rosemary Parslow and Steve Madge. Kneeling in front: Catriona Neil, Pamela Tompsett, Ian Bennallick, Sarah Board, Patrick Saunders and Leon Truscott.

The Long And The Short Two Centipedes At Trelissick

In April the British Myriapod & Isopod Group met in Cornwall (not for the first time) and on their itinerary was a visit to collect in Trelissick Gardens courtesy of the National Trust.

Trelissick was already known to contain a distinctive and unusual snake millipede, *Haplopodoiulus spathifer* (Fig. 1) which had been found there a couple of years ago and is one of our larger forms, up to 30mm long. This is a species whose native habitat is a small region of France and Spain centred on the western Pyrenees but which had been recorded as a presumed introduction in Kew Gardens and

two Kew associated locations (Bedgebury and Wakehurst Place), all in SE England. It is possible that the species was transferred with plant material either from Kew to Trelissick, or as suggested by one of the Trust staff, from Trelissick to Kew. It was recorded here again by Angela Lidgett (from Cheshire) and the present author.



Fig. 1: *Haplopodoiulus spathifer*

Adrian Rundle from Surrey (an expert, it seems, in finding exotic beasties) then proceeded to turn up our largest millipede, *Cylindroiulus londinensis* (Fig.2) which can be nearly 5cm long and 4mm broad and has a very scattered distribution across England, Wales, western Scotland and Ireland. It was already known in Cornwall but this was the first record from Trelissick.



Fig 2: *Cylindroiulus londinensis*

More turning over of stones and logs, sorting through leaf litter, soil and other material, etc. yielded further millipede species, woodlice and centipedes.

One of the commonest larger wire or earth centipedes (geophilomorphs, long forms with numerous legs) in the West Country is a yellowish species with up to 83 pairs of legs and up to 6 or 7 cm long often found in woodland, gardens, waste sites, etc., *Stigmatogaster subterranea*. There are no British species with more legs than this apart from one, *Stigmatogaster souletina* (Fig.3), first recorded from the Carclew estate in 1960 by the late Dr E. H. Eason and much more recently close by in the CWT reserve at Devichoys Wood. It looks very similar but has 93-101 pairs of legs (at least in British animals, in foreign ones up to 107). Specimens of what were assumed to be *S. subterranea* were collected at Trelissick for a colleague at the Natural History museum and were duly sent off with

the suggestion that he checked that they were the species he wanted. As he said after examining one specimen, "When I got up to 90 leg pairs, I realised there was something wrong...". Fortunately, we had sent enough of the species he wanted. So a third site in Britain was added for *S. souletina* and another species for Trelissick (collected by Glyn Collis of Bute & author).



Fig 3: *Stigmatogaster souletina*

At the other end of the leg-number spectrum, there are more than half a dozen of the 30 British geophilomorphs with less than 40 leg-pairs with the record for the lowest number being held by males of *Eurygeophilus pinguis* (Fig.4) with only 35. Apart from its occurrence in the Picos in Spain, the Pyrenees and the Alps, this species was only known to occur in a relatively wide area of North Devon (explain that!). It is up to 2cm long and relatively broad (1.6mm), not one of our "tiny" species and in some respects resembles nothing so much as a *Stigmatogaster* cut in half. Because of its occurrence in Devon it was referred to in the new Cornwall Red Data Book as a possibility for our county. When records started to come in from members of the group, *E. pinguis* had been found by at least two people during the Trelissick survey, Angela again and Eric Philp (Kent) recorded males with 35 and 37 leg pairs respectively.



Fig 4: *Eurygeophilus pinguis*

How do you count legs in live centipedes? Try putting the animal into a plastic envelope first so that you can hold it still but please remember we shall want a voucher specimen for anything really unexpected.

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Articles For Future Newsletters

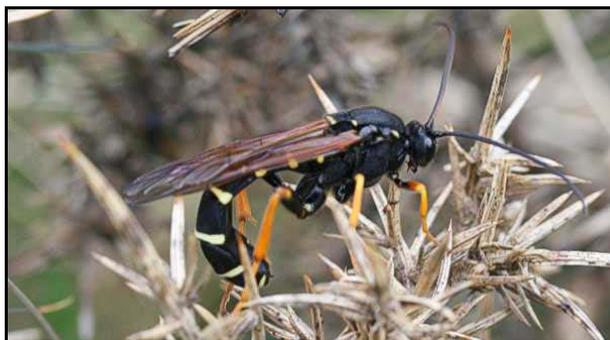
If you have news, articles or photos of interest to CISFBR members, please send them to the newsletter editor –

Malcolm Lee
Gullrock
Port Gaverne
Port Isaac
Cornwall
PL29 3SQ.

e-mail: gullrock@ukonline.co.uk

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.

Interesting Find



This ichneumon wasp was found at the large Blue re-introduction site on 12th June 2008. Most of us would put specimens of such a difficult group in the category *Insecta incognita* and move swiftly on. However, this was large (about 1" long), attractive and sufficiently distinctive that it was worth trying to get identified. David Baldock and Graham Collins were certain it was the very local *Metopius dentatus*, and referred the image to Dr Gavin Broad at BM(NH). He confirmed their ID and said that he believes it is hardly ever seen nowadays. It parasitises the caterpillars of various Eggar moth species. Apart from a 1901 record from St Issey, there is just one other Cornish report, in 1981 from Crousa Paddock on the Lizard. Has anyone else ever come across this distinctive ichneumon?

Malcolm Lee

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