

CISFBR

CORNWALL AND ISLES OF SCILLY FEDERATION OF BIOLOGICAL RECORDERS

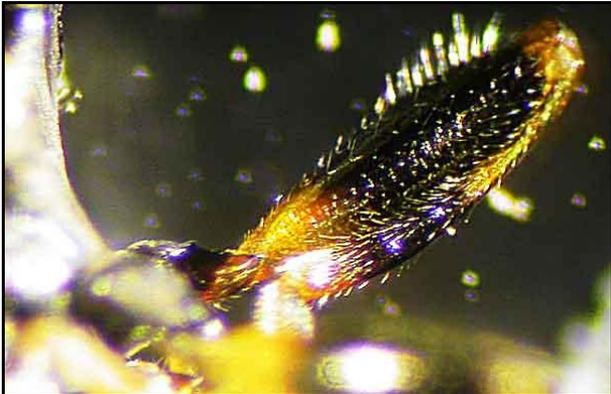
Interesting Find



Neoascia meticulosa (A small Hoverfly)

On 15 April 2012 at SW 670218 Nr. Cury Helston in the bottom of wet grassy fields there were lots of small hoverflies flying low above the grass. These were later identified as *Neoascia meticulosa*, only other Cornish record on Erica was from the 1980's about three miles away in similar habitat.

Wing length is only 4.00mm - 5.00mm and there are other very similar species, the photo shows the diagnostic feature of yellow apex to hind femora.



They are thought to breed in the stems of *Typha* and be fond of *Glyceria* according to Hartley, 1961, British Hoverflies by Stubbs and Falk.

Bernard Hocking

WILDLIFE RECORDERS MEETING & CISFBR AGM

4th February 2012 at Roche Village Hall

WILDLIFE RECORDERS MEETING

CISFBR and the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS) held a joint wildlife recorders meeting on Saturday 4th February 2012 at Roche Victory Hall, at Roche in mid-Cornwall from 10am to 3pm. About 50 recorders attended, and following on from previous collaborations, the meeting was open to all with the aim to bring together those interested in recording wildlife in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Various wildlife recording groups/individuals set up displays and stands, and supporting material was available to pick up, buy or study, including leaflets, books and examples of recording equipment. Examples of displays included Oil Beetle recording by Buglife, The National Dormouse Recording Scheme, and specimens of moths. At 10am – 10.30am Rosemary Parslow, the chair of CISFBR and Gary Lewis, the manager of ERCCIS, reported on what work has been achieved in 2011, and ongoing and future projects or issues. From 10.30am – 12.45am the recording groups or individual recorders gave brief updates on what recording they or their group is involved in. The following gave reports: BOTANICAL CORNWALL GROUP – Ian Bennallick; CORNWALL MOTH GROUP – Tony James; CORNWALL FUNGUS RECORDING GROUP – Pauline Penna; CORNWALL REPTILE & AMPHIBIAN GROUP – Shirley Cardus; CORNWALL MAMMAL GROUP – Kate Hills (nee Stokes) and Tania Percy-Bell; LAUNCESTON PARISH WILDLIFE PROJECT – Jenny Bousfield; CARADON NATURAL HISTORY AND FIELD CLUB – Steve Madge; VOLUNTARY MARINE COASTAL AREAS (VMCA) IN CORNWALL – Charlotte Marshall; BIG FISH AND LITTLE FISH - RECORDING MARINE AND ESTUARINE FISH IN CORNWALL AND THE ISLES OF SCILLY – Doug Herdson; and Colin French reported on latest developments on the ERICA FOR WINDOWS DATABASE. From the presentations it is obvious that wildlife recording is still very much active in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly!

CISFBR AGM

At 12.45 a lengthy lunch gave all attending a chance to mingle and see the displays. The CISFBR AGM was held at 2.15pm, closed at 2.45pm, and the meeting soon after. The AGM started at around 2.15pm, with 19 members of CISFBR present. After apologies, the minutes of the 2011 AGM were circulated and read and were accepted. There were no matters arising. The Chairman and Treasurer & Membership Secretary 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 2012 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, no existing members stood down. The committee also includes – Tony Atkinson, Frances Chapman, Chris Haes, Jayne Herbert, 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. Tony Atkinson proposed a vote of thanks for the officers for their work over the last year. The Treasurer reported that the CISFBR bank account will be moved to Santander. Ian Bennallick reported on three items concerning

publications: the ongoing work of updating the Handbook for Biological Recorders, with the intention of getting it online where sections will be regularly updated as and when needed; the intention of CISFBR of reviving a yearly journal 'Zoological Cornwall' to complement 'Botanical Cornwall'; and that ERCCIS is accepting and holding copies of any electronic reports or articles relevant to biological recording in Cornwall. The AGM ended at 2.45pm

Chairman's Report

Once again we have had an unusually quiet year without any major project, so only two meetings since the last AGM in July so not even a full year. We are hoping to get some of the original authors to update their sections in the Recorders' Handbook as well as making sure addresses and names of county recorders are updated.

It has been something of a relief to find ERCCIS has survived the downturn even if they have been somewhat pared down. Other organisations have had severe budget cuts, Natural England for one.

Ian and Glynn Bernallick have continued working on the DTP and redesign of the Fern Atlas. Again progress has been slow but the improved design should make it worth the wait. Some of us have also taken the opportunity to update the distribution maps before publication. It should be at the printers later this month.

Erica had been going from strength to strength, with two and a half million records now on the database, not only plants (although these are still in the majority) but all groups. Colin has also run a workshop for new subscribers.

The AGM was include in the joint CISFBR/ERCCIS day this year so is earlier than last year. It seemed a good idea to get as many recording organisations and individuals along together as possible.

Rosemary Parslow

Treasurer's Report

CISFBR Accounts 01/01/2011 – 31/12/2011

Income

Subscriptions	£280.00
Interest	£1.42
Publications	£280.00
Donations (tea & coffee, etc)	£3.50
Miscellaneous Income	£0.00

Total Income **£564.92**

Expenditure

Bank Charges	£0.00
Newsletter production and distribution	£77.66
Meeting Publicity	£0.00
Meetings (Room hire, refreshment, etc)	£99.00
Expenses	£0.00
Publications (incl distribution costs)	£15.00

Total expenditure **£191.66**

Balance (income minus expenditure) **£373.26**

Brought Forward from 2010 **£3,329.25**

Total in Account **£3,702.51**

Notes:

1. We brought forward £3,329.25 from the year 2010. Of this sum approximately £1,450 is advanced payments from individuals collected for the Cornwall Fern publication.

2. The closing balance of £3,702.51 is £373.26 higher than at the opening. This increase is largely attributed to a gift of £250 from the British Pteridological Society towards publication costs of the Cornwall Fern publication.

3. The only significant expenditure in the year was for meeting room hire and newsletter production and distribution.

RBS proposed sale to Santander

1. RBS have informed me that they propose transferring our account to Santander later in 2012.

2. Their RBS literature says that the present terms and conditions will be honoured in the new arrangement.

3. The Truro branch of RBS will be closing

Matt Stribley

Membership Secretary's Report

1. During 2011 we attracted 5 new members.

2. There was 1 resignation which was David Holyoak.

3. The membership stands at 84; comprised of the following categories.

4. Honorary 4, Paid members 47, Partners (of paid members) 4 and 29 unpaid in 2011.

5. Those not renewing for more than 3 consecutive years will be removed from the membership list. The total number falling in this category stands at 11.

6. When the 11 long-term unpaid members are removed the total membership will stand at 73.

7. The membership subscription stands at £5, with partners of members sharing the same address free (but some partners choose to pay).

Matt Stribley

Armstrong's Wood Bat Boxes Survey 6/5/2012.

As usual a good crowd turned out to see both the bat and the Dormouse boxes opened, with several people new to the experience.



Brown Long-eared Bats

This was the second year we have surveyed the boxes in May, (in addition to the October survey) and the results justify the extra effort. Not only were we able to record 19 bats but we also had four species. And the two trainee bat wardens had some good handling experience, though on this occasion they were only able to handle two of the species: Brown Long-eared and Natterer's Bat.

The other two species, Noctule and Pipistrelle were tucked up safely out of our reach in the insulated “beehive” boxes and could only be seen from the ground.

As usual, most of the boxes were empty, but Box 8, on the oak above the track, had a solitary Brown Long-eared in it. Then the last box to be opened down by the river had two male Brown Long-eared in it, and Box 13, going up the top track, had eight Natterer’s Bats.

Both the beehive boxes strapped to the trees above the leat had single Noctules in them, and the large box hanging from the Oak tree up on the top track had, we think, about five Pipistrelles in it.

This survey has been running since 1994, and the numbers remained low (only up to a total of 3 bats) until 2007. But since I’ve put up the “beehive” type boxes, numbers have shot up. But strangely, they seem to have encouraged the occupancy of the conventional boxes. So Box 14, in October 2008, having never had a bat in it before, had about 16 Brown Long-eared Bats. But this was exceptional for these boxes. The eight Natterer’s this year was the highest total for a single box otherwise.

Generally, the occupancy rate for the conventional boxes is about 10% to 15%. But the rate for the insulated “beehive” boxes is well over the 50%. (Mind, I only put two up in 2006 and the second pair went up in 2009, so we are only talking about four boxes at most.) As a way of attracting bats they seem far better than the conventional boxes, but of course you can’t handle the bats, and it is not always easy to identify or count them.

Tony Atkinson

Cuttlebone strandings on the coasts of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly in 2011

Background

The ‘cuttlebones’ or rigid endo-skeletons of the Cephalopod molluscs, such as the Common cuttle *Sepia officinalis*, are a familiar sight to beachcombers and are widespread in any month in ones and twos amongst the upper shore debris of UK shores. In most years it is not uncommon to find considerable numbers scattered along the strandlines of Cornish and Scillonian beaches and also floating in the water, usually from May onwards coinciding with a spring spawning peak after which many females die.

Those of the Common Cuttle *Sepia officinalis*, a large species, are particularly noticeable. Occasionally, in some years, huge numbers are observed not only of the adult cuttlebones of this species, which can reach over 250mm in length, but nearly as many which are smaller in size, 50-80mm, suggesting that sub-adult *S. officinalis* are also involved. Spawning in our shallow waters appears to peak in the early spring. The species is understood to be an intermittent spawner and can mature when as little as 60-80mm (males) long or 110mm (females) (Arkley, *et al.* 1996). A direct connection with the mass mortality indicated by the scale of the strandings is not known. The smaller, less well known, pink-flushed species *S. orbignyana* and *S. elegans*, 35-80mm, can be found amongst these smaller cuttlebones but often are not recognised and recorded.

Past wrecks

Large wrecks have been recorded previously along the coasts of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (Turk, Light & Tompsett, 2000), SE England (Lane, 1950), the Isle of Man

(Moore, 1937), the Channel Isles 1998-1999 (pers. comm. P. E. Tompsett) and Holland (Cadeé, 2002).



Top view above, and side view below (Photos Matt Stribley)
Upper: *Sepia officinalis*
Middle: *S. orbignyana*
Lower: *S. elegans*



2011 cuttlebone strandings

In 2011, the main period of reports came during May and early June, although Douglas Herdson recalled seeing many hundreds floating at sea in Northern Biscay and the Western Approaches in March and a few were still seen floating throughout a ferry journey from Plymouth to Roscoff that he made in early June. A professional fisherman Lynda Filmer had also seen large numbers at sea during this same period. Both suggested that it was the larger sized *Sepia officinalis* cuttlebones that were so obvious and offered no information on any smaller sizes. There were obviously substantial numbers of live *S. officinalis* in the vicinity of the Helford River eelgrass, *Zostera marina*, in late May, as Phil Lockley emptied 18 kilos from his 120 pots which had over-wintered unbaited. He noted also that the pots were well-covered in bunches of the deep purple eggs.

Three species

The 2011 occurrence mirrored the Millennium year late spring stranding episode (Turk, Light & Tompsett, 2000) when reports centred on the Common cuttle, *S. officinalis* with a wide range of sizes/ages from juvenile to adult being present, again suggesting a brief but large scale mortality. The presence of large numbers of the younger *S. officinalis* cuttlebones could well have masked the existence of the smaller pink-flushed species *S. orbignyana* and *S. elegans* except where specifically targeted.

Locations

Reports were received from different people and beaches from the Isles of Scilly to Sennen, Godrevy, Portreath, Perranporth, Newquay, Mawgan Porth, Bude, Marazion, Porthleven and Maenporth, Falmouth on mainland

Cornwall. Reports have not been received of such huge strandings following a late summer spawning period.

Possible causes

There are various suggestions to account for these mass events such as severe weather conditions during migrations from deep to shallower water for spawning or an unsuccessful outcome during an irregular migration (Boucaud-Camou, *et al.* 1999). It is recognised that spawning occurs further north in warm years and shifts south in cool years, and timing can be influenced by the strength of Atlantic currents. The centre of high abundance in offshore deep water moves north in warm winters and south in cool winters (Wanga, J., *et al.* 2003). Thus climatic conditions, also including wind direction and tide, can play a significant part in the final location of these wrecks.

Phil Lockley, fisheries correspondent of 'Fishing News' discounts the theory of fishery discards since even the smallest of any catch are used either for the table or bait, mostly in mainland Europe.

More recently and as an interesting observation, acoustic trauma resulting from exposure to low frequency sound from guns on offshore vessels has been demonstrated in squid, octopus and cuttlefish and was associated with strandings of Giant Squid on Spanish beaches in 2001 and 2003 (Andre, 2011) (Everett, 2011) though any connection with mass strandings has not been recognised.

Future recording

The proportions of the two rarer, pink flushed species *S. orbignyana* and *S. elegans*, are of particular interest and well worth investigations in any future cuttlebone stranding event.

Pamela Tompsett

References

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- Boucaud-Camou E. 1991. The migration of the cuttlefish *Sepia officinalis* L. in the English Channel. *The Cuttlefish*. 1991. *Acta. 1st International Symposium on the Cuttlefish Sepia Caen, June 1-3, 1989. Centre de publications de l'Université de Caen. pp. 179-189.*
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- Everett, S., 2011. Squids squished by ocean noise. Conservation news, marine and coast. *British Wildlife* **22**(5):373.
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- Turk, S. M., Light, J. M. Light & Tompsett, P.E. 2000. A large Cornish and Scillonian wreck of cuttlebones *Sepia officinalis* and *S. orbignyana*. *The Conchologists' Newsletter* **155**:414-419
- Wanga, J., *et al.* 2003. Spatial and temporal patterns of cuttlefish (*Sepia officinalis*) abundance and environmental

influences – a case study using trawl fishery data in French Atlantic coastal, English Channel, and adjacent waters. *ICES Journal of Marine Science* **60**:1149-1158

What's On

CBC – Cornwall Butterfly Conservation

BCG – Botanical Cornwall Group

JULY

Saturday 7th CBC - Delabole Quarry, Delabole, Nr. Camelford. Meet at SX074836 in Delabole Quarry Car Park by visitor centre at 1:00pm. For details and directions phone Dave Conway on 01208 77686.

Saturday 7th Marine Biological Association BIO-BLITZ at Cawswand and Kingsand, from 13.00 on Saturday to 1500 on Sunday. Meet at the Institute in Kingsand.

Saturday 7th BCG – SW42 and SW43 - WILD FLOWER SOCIETY meeting, based around Penzance area. For details contact Ian Bennallick 01726 890384 or 07714738189.

Sunday 8th Marine Biological Association BIO-BLITZ at Cawswand and Kingsand, from 13.00 on Saturday to 1500 on Sunday. Meet at the Institute in Kingsand.

Sunday 8th BCG – SW42 and SW43 - WILD FLOWER SOCIETY meeting, based around Penzance area.

Wednesday 11th BCG –Colliford Reservoir. Meet in car park by edge of reservoir SX163730 at 9.30.

Saturday 14th CBC –Godolphin Woods, West of Helston. Meet at SW603321 by white gate of Blowing House at 2:00pm. For details and directions phone Carly Hoskin on 01326 563462.

Sunday 15th CBC –Cabilla Wood, Glyn Valley, nr. Bodmin. Meet at SX128653 by sawmill at 1:00pm. For directions phone Dave Conway on 01208 77686.

Sunday 15th BCG – SX27 Trewortha Tor/Bastreet Downs/Tresellern Marsh. Meet along minor road SX258758 at 9.30.

Sunday 22nd BCG – SX27 Halvana Plantation and East Moor. Meet end of minor road, Halvana SX213787 at 9.30.

Saturday 28th BIO-BLITZ Windmill Farm Nature Reserve. SW 694153. Early till late.

Sunday 29th BIO-BLITZ Windmill Farm Nature Reserve. SW 694153. Early till late.

Sunday 29th BCG – SX17 Kerrow Downs. Meet at T-junction at SX115749 at 9.30.

AUGUST

Saturday 4th CBC – Trelusback Farm, Penhalvean, Redruth, TR16 6TQ. Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Members 'Open Day', hosted by Keith Wilson. Meet 11:00am at Trelusback Farm at SW712384. For detailed directions please phone Keith on 01209 860298 or if no reply 07972 376982 or phone Jo Poland on 01872 540371.

Sunday 12th CBC – Kynance Cove, nr. The Lizard. Leaders – Dave Spencer & Jack Keeping. Meet at SW688132 in main Kynance Cove Car Park at 11am.

Sunday 12th BCG – SX26 Bulland Downs and Common Moor. Meet at Golitha Falls (Draynes Wood) car park SX227689 at 9.30.

Wednesday 15th BCG – SX27 East Moor and Rushyford Gate. Meet along minor road near ford SX237770 at 9.30.

Friday 17th CBC –Loe Bar Beach, Porthleven, Nr. Helston, the only known location in Great Britain of the Sandhill Rustic Moth subspecies '*Luperina nickerlii leechi*'. You should wrap up well & bring a good torch as there is no nearby artificial light. Due to the sensitive nature of this site, those wishing to attend will need to reserve a place with Adrian Spalding himself by phoning him at work on 01872 272711. Meet 9pm at SW652236 down narrow track which leads to the south east end of Loe Bar Beach as far as cars can drive where there is small narrow car park at Chyvarloe (north of Gunwolloe).

Sunday 19th CBC – 10:30am Gwennap Head and Porthgwarra. Park in Porthgwarra car park where there is a cafe & toilets. Pay & display car park in operation. Meet 10.30am at SW372218 in main Porthgwarra car Park. For details and directions phone Jim Barker on 01736 794134.

Sunday 26th BCG – SX95 Goverseth area. Meet in layby SW947546. Recording in the varied habitats of the China clay area.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 8th CBC – Lantic Bay, Nr. Polruan. Meet 1pm at SX173517 in Lansallos car park. For full details and directions phone Paddy Saunders on 01503 262567.

CISFBR Officers for 2012/13

Chair: Rosemary Parslow, 17 St Michael's Road, Ponsanooth, Truro, TR3 7ED. Tel: 01872 865013

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Secretary: Ian Bennallick, Lower Polmorla, St Wenn, Bodmin, PL30 5PE. Tel: 01726 890384

e-mail: ianbennallick@btinternet.com

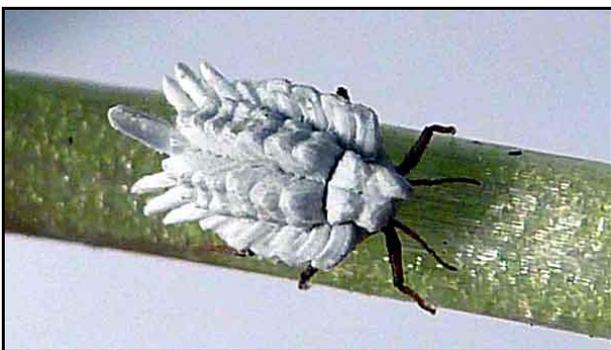
Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Matt Stribley, 8 St Georges Road, Truro, TRI 3JE. Tel: 01872 272900

Newsletter Editor: Malcolm Lee, Gullrock, Port Gaverne, Port Isaac, PL29 3SQ. Tel: 01208 880106

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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 Tompssett.
Corresponding members: Jacqui Davey, Tim Dingle & Dr Chris Page

Orthezia urticae – Nettle Ensign Bug



Whilst recording plants along a hedge north of Lowley Bridge SX35857903, near Rezare in East Cornwall, on 8th May 2011, I found some Lesser Celandine *Ranunculus ficaria* leaves with the rust *Uromyces dactylidis*. Whilst examining the rust I noticed a small white insect on the leaf

stalk which I didn't recognise. It appeared to be covered in a white fungus, but the pattern of this was too regular. First thoughts were that it could have been a beetle larvae or something similar, that had been attacked by a fungus. I collected it with the intention of taking a few photos of it when I got home and this I did, with several photos of it from different angles. I emailed the photos to Paul Gaaney, who usually knows all about the more obscure flora and fauna of Cornwall, but even he was stumped at the time. Unfortunately I didn't keep the specimen from Lowley Bridge but released it into my garden (Lower Polmorla, St Wenn SW975643) as I knew I wasn't going to be seeing Paul Gaaney to give it to him. I should have killed and preserved it but as it was the only one, but I felt that it ought to have a chance to survive!

After a few quiet months, Paul phoned in October 2011 to say he had seen an illustration of something like it in new book he had just purchased, which was a small scale insect called *Orthezia urticae* – Nettle Ensign Bug. I looked at the name and the images on Google, and the most useful was from a similar query on the Natural History Museum (NHM) [blog](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/natureplus/thread/4038?fromGateway=true) - www.nhm.ac.uk/natureplus/thread/4038?fromGateway=true, which matched what I had seen at Lowley Bridge, where Jon Martin from the entomology department gave the following answer to another person who sent an image of this species to the blog. Jon made some useful comments about the species -

"...this belongs to a group related to aphids and is a type of scale insect. It is adult and it belongs to a family called the Ortheziidae, which often live under stones or in tangles of mossy vegetation. Others, like yours, feed on aerial parts of their host plants. These individuals are in lovely condition and are definitely not suffering from fungal attack [which is what I thought had happened to the specimen at Lowley Bridge]. The adult females (males are extremely tiny and resemble flies) secrete large amounts of white wax all over the body and this may help with managing the micro-climate around the insect. At the hind end of the individual you can clearly see a fluted waxy extension - this is termed an ovisac and it contains hundreds of eggs. When the eggs hatch, the minute crawlers emerge from the end of the ovisac and can wander to find themselves suitable feeding sites - and some will be dispersed by air currents. Scale insects are true bugs (Hemiptera) and feed on plant sap via tubular stylets. Members of this family are called "ensign scales" because the action of walking causes the ovisac to waggle from side to side, like signalling flags. They are relatively unusual because they can (and do) walk with their ovisacs attached - most other scales remain static once an ovisac has been produced. [The white flecks on many urban tree trunks and branches are ovisacs of a different type of scale insect.]

*Identifying ortheziids is very difficult, partly because all that wax usually has to be carefully removed. Once "bald" they are chemically treated and mounted flat on glass slides. Even then, they are covered in thousands of long hairs that obscure important characteristics. In good condition like yours, some may be identifiable by a specialist from the patterns of the waxy secretions. I don't know where yours were photographed. If in UK they might be a common pest of warmer parts of the world that has become established in a glasshouse, called *Insignorthezia insignis*. Native British species include *Arctorthezia cataphracta*, *Newsteadia floccosa* [floccosa meaning woolly/flocculent] and *Orthezia urticae*. Some species are pretty hardy creatures, and those feeding on roots and*

living under rocks can be found in places like Iceland, Svalbard and Greenland”.

I then emailed Jon at NHM who suggested that I contact Chris Malumphy, Senior Entomologist and Collections Manager at the The Food and Environment Research Agency, Sand Hutton, York. After I sent Chris some of the photos of the specimen from Lowley Bridge, Chris emailed confirming that the insect was indeed *Orthezia urticae*. He also noted that -

“There are five native species of Ortheziidae in Britain, which can usually be identified to species from photographs *Newsteadia floccosa* and *Orthezia urticae* occur throughout Britain, whereas the other three species, *Arctorthezia cataphracta*, *Ortheziola britannica* and *O. vejovskiyi*, are more common in northern England and Scotland. All ortheziids are rarely recorded in Britain, although *O. urticae* is more frequently found than the others, as it is larger and often occurs on stems and foliage of herbaceous plants. The other species usually occur at ground level, in moss or among plant roots”.

He also attached two articles, one containing a checklist and identification key for the British Ortheziidae, and the second with a picture of *Orthezia urticae*.

In between getting confirmation from Chris Malumphy, I emailed Keith Alexander, who published *The Land and Freshwater Bugs (Hemiptera) of Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly* in 2008 (Alexander, 2008), who replied “I included scale insects in my Cornish bug review – see pages 143-4. No previous records of ortheziids though. So yours is at least the first for the family even if we can’t narrow it down further. There are very few people who can deal with scale insect identification – Jon’s comments cover the techniques required – so I am reliant on other people for the group”.

I contacted Keith after Chris confirmed that the insect I saw at Lowley Bridge was *Orthezia urticae*, and Keith confirmed that it is the first record for it in Cornwall.

Thanks to Paul Gainey, Keith Alexander, Jon Martin and Chris Malumphy for getting to the bottom of this puzzling identification.

Ian Bennallick

Reference

Alexander, K. N. A. 2008. *The Land and Freshwater Bugs (Hemiptera) of Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly* – CISFBR & ERCCIS Occasional publication No. 2. Available at:

<http://www.cisfbr.org.uk/Documents/Cornish%20Hemiptera%20review.pdf> [accessed 7 May 2012]

New CISFBR Website

The CISFBR website used to be hosted by Microsoft for free. At the beginning of the year Microsoft announced that this free service was to close down in April. This meant we had to find a new website provider and then migrate the old website to it. This process was successfully completed before the old site was closed down and it involved a complete redesign of the CISFBR website.

The new CISFBR website can be found at www.cisfbr.org.uk and it is becoming a considerable resource of information about Cornwall’s wildlife. The two largest resources are the entire text from the Red Data Book for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and the Bryophytes of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly by David Holyoak. This large tome is only available on the CISFBR website and deals with over 600 hornworts, liverworts and mosses, with the authoritative text accompanied by distribution maps and sumptuous photographs.

Other resources available from the CISFBR website are details of meetings, and downloads of CISFBR newsletters, Microlepidoptera photographs from Frank Smith, various check-lists and Keith Alexander’s Hemiptera and Psocoptera reviews.

Colin French

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: gullrockportgaverne@btinternet.com

(please note new e-mail address)

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.

King Protea Rat

Rats may not be the most endearing mammals, but Rosemary Parslow forwarded these delightful pictures taken in April by James Powell at Tresco Abbey Gardens. The King Protea, also known as the King Sugar Bush, has delicious nectar and in its native land many different birds are attracted to the feast, getting covered in pollen in the process. This rat has obviously learnt the trick. Many thanks to James Powell for permission to use his pictures.

Malcolm Lee



Left: Entering the King Protea flower. Centre: Popping up all covered in pollen. Right: Going back inside for more.