

## REFERENCES

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August 5th, 1958.

[Visits of the ant *Lasius niger* L. to *Ranunculus* spp. are discussed by Smith, K. G. V. and Harper, J. L., 1957, *J. Ecol.*, 45: 342.—Eds.]

*Some recent records of Ephemera lineata Eaton and Potamanthus luteus (L.) (Ephemeroptera).*—The only previous British records of *Ephemera lineata* Eaton are from the River Thames between Reading and Teddington, the last one being for 1902. During September, 1957, the present writer took an adult of *Potamanthus* near Hereford, and since both *Potamanthus* and *Ephemera lineata* were taken by Eaton at Laleham and Weybridge it seemed possible that *E. lineata* also occurred in the Wye. A search was accordingly made and eventually two *Ephemera lineata* nymphs, with markings like those of a typical adult, were found in a bed of fine sand in deep water. *E. danica* Müll. was common in the shallower more rapid water, but *E. vulgata* L. has not been found.

It was thought until recently that *Ephemera lineata* was extinct in the Thames, but an adult was discovered in Reading Museum which was taken in 1953 at light. The locality, just west of Reading, was approximately half a mile from the Thames whence the insect probably came, although there are a number of clay-pits in the neighbourhood which might also harbour *Ephemera* nymphs. So far only *Ephemera vulgata* nymphs have been found in the Thames at this point.

The nymphs of *Potamanthus luteus* (L.), the other species with a restricted distribution, which has been found on the Wye, inhabit small pools floored with stones and fine silt. These pools are always nearly, but not quite, cut off from the main river, and are inundated in times of flood. Dr. T. T. Macan has found *Potamanthus* nymphs in similar situations on the Usk, where the nymphs were found in the silt. In the localities on the Wye they have generally been found clinging to the underside of the stones, and it is possible that just previous to emergence the nymphs migrate to the upper surface of the stones, when they would be found among the silt. Besides being typically lithophilous, however, the nymphs of *Potamanthus* are good swimmers, and small nymphs are also occasionally found among sand.

I am indebted to Dr. Macan both for confirming the identity of the *Ephemera* nymphs, and for the information which he kindly placed at my disposal.—C. M. H. HARRISSON, Grove House, Leighton Park, Reading: July 2nd, 1958.

*Four additions to the Kent list of Hemiptera-Heteroptera.*—The Lygaeid bug, *Gastrodes abietum* Bergroth occurred in numbers on spruce fir during the second week of August at Otterden, Kent. A number of the conifers were felled in July, and the bug was captured by beating the branches of some of the cut-down trees.

The Anthocorid bug, *Anthocoris minki* Dohrn occurred in numbers on old ash trees at East Malling during the latter part of September. This species is also present on an ornamental ash in my garden at 'Acarina'.

The Mirid bug, *Phytocoris insignis* Reuter was plentiful at Ham Street during the first and second weeks of August. It was taken by sweeping a grassy situation where heather was growing in profusion.

*Asciodema fieberi* (Douglas and Scott), another Mirid bug, was captured by beating wych elm at the end of June and July. The species was recorded from East Malling, West Malling and Yalding. At West Malling it occurred on one tree growing in the Park, but could not be found on several other wych elm trees growing in the vicinity.—A. M. MASSEE, 'Acarina', East Malling, Kent: November 7th, 1958.

*Zodion cinereum* (F.) (Dipt., Conopidae) in Ireland.—On August 2nd, 1958, whilst collecting Diptera in a country lane two miles from the town of Monaghan (V.C.: H32) I took a female *Zodion cinereum* (F.) on a flower head of Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare* (Sari) Ten. This would appear to be the first reported occurrence of this species from Ireland. Mr. K. G. V. Smith, to whom I am indebted for confirming my identification, states (1952, *Proc. R. Irish Acad. (B)*, 54: 203-8): 'Not known to occur in Ireland' and that it '... Appears to be a southern species, recorded from Dorset to Norfolk. . . . Monaghan is in the same latitude as Yorkshire and a specimen in the Dale collection has by interpolation (Smith, K. G. V., 1955, *Ent. mon. Mag.*, 91: 298-300) been shown to have been taken near Newcastle, Northumberland. It may well be, therefore, that *Z. cinereum* is much more widely distributed than recorded captures would have one believe.—J. K. FRASER, 401 Merville Garden Village, Newtownabbey, N. Ireland: September 9th, 1958.