

Recording Dorset

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wildlife in Dorset
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Illustrations by Bryan Pickess, John Newbould

Front cover: *Puccinia urticaria* © Bryan Edwards

Dorset Hemiptera-Heteroptera (True Bugs)

Part 2: LYGAEIDAE (GROUND BUGS)

The Order Hemiptera includes those insects that have a mouthpiece forming a long thin tube known as a rostrum that is used to pierce and suck sustenance from its food source. The order is divided into two suborders Heteroptera and Homoptera and together contains well over 1800 species. Over 600 of these belong to the suborder Heteroptera, the main difference being that Homoptera hold their wings tent like over their body whereas Heteroptera hold them flat on the body. It is with the later group that this and future article will be concerned.

County lists covering the whole of the country have been produced on three occasions; the first was by Butler (1926) followed by Bedwell (1945) and Masse (1955). Although there is a national recording scheme for Heteroptera as yet no distribution maps have been produced therefore information regarding coverage mostly comes from Southwood & Leston (1959).

The 2nd part of Dorset Hemiptera-Heteroptera deals with the family Lygaeidae or to use their common name ground bug. These are as their name suggest found mainly at ground level. The family consists of 86 species, 12 of which have been added since the publication of Southwood and Leston (1959). Dorset with its large expanses of heathland and its south facing coastal cliffs is well placed to have a large proportion of the British species. This is borne out by the fact that 78% (67 species) have been recorded from the county.

For the most part, the only means of identification is still S&L, however access is required to many journals for comprehensive coverage of the family. Because of their secretive nature and small size ground bugs are not as easily found and recorded as the shield bugs and their allies covered in Recording Dorset 9. However, in recent years the introduction of a commercial suction device that can be easily converted to a suction trap has lead to many species regarded as rare being found to be widespread.

As already stated many of the species are associated with dry soils on heathland, chalk downland and coastal situations, however there are exceptions, for instance the genus *Grossipes* is associated with coniferous cones, whilst *Heterogaster urtica* will be found amongst the leaves of stinging nettle and *Kleidocerys resedae* is readily beaten from trees.

Of the 865 Dorset records held by DERC for ground bugs over 300 are for the 5 most common species whilst *Heterogaster urticae* is one of the top ten most abundant bugs in the county. Although over twenty entomologist are referred to in the text, as with the first report the main contributors of records are Dale, Haines, Day, Morris and Hunnisett. The records cover V.C. 9 and that part of V.C.11 now included in Dorset. A distribution map is shown for species with more than ten records and individual records are given for less than that number. The number in square brackets following the species name gives some indication of the number of records held for that species as follows: 10+ = 10 – 20; 20+ = 20 – 50; 50+ = 50 – 100; 100+ more than 100.

The order in which the species are listed follows Kloet & Hincks (1964) but up-to-date nomenclature has been used.

List of contributors:

AAA	AA Allen	JCD	JC Dale
AJW	AJ Wise	JH	J Hunnisett
AMM	AM Masee	JSD	JS Denton
BN	B Nau	KD	K Dolbear
CDD	CD Day	MAS	MA Salmon
CHA	CH Andrews	MGM	MG Morris
CWD	CW Dale	PK	P Kirby
DH	D Hallett	RC	R Crossely
FHH	FH Haines	SCSB	SCS Brown
GEW	GE Woodroffe	SJ	S Judd
GGES	GGE Scudder	TAM	TA Marshall
ICC	IC Cross	WGB	WG Blatch

The information is set out as follows:

SU00	v-	1972	SCSB
10 km grid square	Month (May)	Year	Recorder

Key to map symbols:

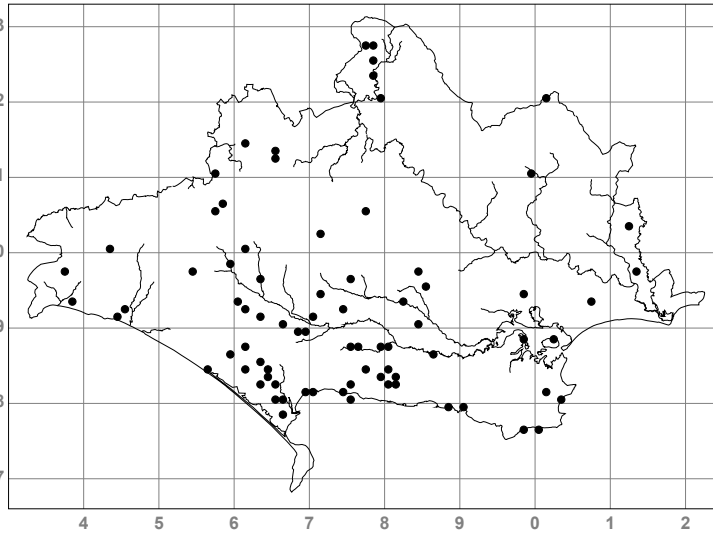
- <1970 ● >1970 (The maps were produced using the DMAP for Windows Software)

Heterogaster urticae Fabricius, 1775

Status: Common [50+]

This bug, as its name suggests, is closely associated with the genus *Urtica* Stinging Nettles. The general appearance is of a parallel-sided bug with long pubescence and banded legs. The adults overwinter beneath bark or in the hollow stems of woody plants. Mating takes place in June and July on the host plant. Nationally it can be found mainly in the south but with scattered records as far north as Yorkshire. It is widely distributed in Dorset and can be found by sweeping nettles between June and September.

The earliest Dorset record is from Portland **SY67** vi-1875 *JCD*, the most recent being Brownsea Island **SZ08** 2007 *MAS*. It seems strange that this common bug was not mentioned in Dale's book on the parish of Glanvilles Wootton (Dale, 1878).



Heterogaster artemisiae Shilling, 1829.

Status: Notable B [9]

A bug very similar to the above but without the long pubescence and with different coloured legs. It is mainly associated with thyme and consequently is found amongst coastal sandhills and chalk scree. Overwintering adults mate in early June with new adults occurring in late August to September. The bug can be found along the south coast with scattered records from southern inland counties. In Dorset it is restricted to the coast. Although there are three specimens in the Dale Collection none are labelled so they cannot be assumed to be from Dorset. The first mention of the species in Dorset is in Butler (1923) but no recorder is given.

Ballard Cliff **SZ08** 1955 *GGES*; Portland Bill **SY66** 1955 *GGES*; Swanage **SZ07** 1956 *GEW*; Durdle Door **SY88** 1985 *SJ*; Ballard Cliff **SZ08** 1987 *SJ*; Lulworth Cove **SY87** vi-92 *BN*; Winspit **SY97** vi-95 *JSD*; Portland **SY66** vi-95 *JSD*; St Oswald's Bay **SY88** ix-1998 (PK).

Chilacis typhae Perris, 1857

Status: Common [4]

The common name for this insect is the Reedmace bug, a fitting name as it spends all stages of its life either on the flower head or hibernating in the litter at the base of Great Reedmace *Typha latifolia*. Mating takes place in late May and the brown-red larvae become adult from mid-July onwards. The only other bug that could be found on this plant is *Cymus glandicolor* but this does not have a well-defined yellow V mark on the scutellum like *Chilacis typhae*. Masee (1955) shows it as being found throughout England but becoming rarer in the north. Despite the host plant being fairly common in Dorset the records for the bug are sparse. The indications are that it is certainly under-recorded.

The earliest Dorset record is from Studland **SZ08** x-1934 *SCSB*; Iwerne Minster **ST81** vii-1949 *CDD*; Littlesea **SZ08** 1964 *MGM*; Ryewater Nursery **ST61** viii-2007 *KD*.

Henestaris laticeps Curtis, 1836

Status: Local [10+]

This ground bug is immediately recognised in the field by its protruding eyes. It is associated with Buck's-horn Plantain *Plantago coronopus* and over-winters as an adult. Its can be found in areas of sparse vegetation where its colour merges so well with the ground that it will not be spotted unless it moves. Nationally it is confined to the coastal strips of the English and Welsh southern counties. Likewise in Dorset it can only be found in suitable strips along the coast despite the fact that its host plant is fairly common throughout the Poole Basin.

The first Dorset record was by Dale who found it at Lulworth Cove **SY87** viii-1879, whilst the last was from Worbarrow Bay **SY87** viii-2005 *JH*.

Nysius

The British mainland list of the genus *Nysius* contains 5 species that can be divided into two groups, recent arrivals and those that have been recorded in the British Isles for at least 50 years. In general they all have very similar requirements regarding habitat and life style. They prefer warm sunny areas with scant vegetation where their colouring makes them difficult to see against the background. They over-winter as adults with the following year's offspring becoming fully grown in August to September. Except for one, their host plant cannot be named with any confidence.

Nysius thymi Wolff, 1804

Status: Common [9]

As the name suggests this bug is strongly associated with thyme and has a widespread distribution in Britain. Until 1959 this and the next species were considered as forms of the same species but Woodroffe (1959) found consistent differences in both size and genitalia.

Burton Bradstock **SY48** ix-1980 *MGM*; Sandford **SY98** vi-1982 *MGM*; Holton Heath **SY99** viii-1982 *MGM*; Eype Mouth **SY49** ix-1984 *MGM*; Winfrith Heath **SY88** vii-2000 *JH*; East Stoke Fen **SY88** ix-2000 *JH*; Poole Bay Cliffs **SZ08** vi-2001 *JH*; Mudeford Spit **SZ19** vii-2001 *JH*; Bovington Heath **SY88** viii-2007 *JH*.

Nysius ericae Schilling, 1829

Status: Common [6]

Although the name suggests an association with heather it is thought that its host plants are more varied. It can be found in dry situations with sparse vegetation. As with the previous species this bug has a widespread distribution and is found as far north as Inverness. There are specimens in the Dale collection but as they have not been confirmed as this species they have not been included.

Ringstead Bay **SY78** ix-1991 *BN*; Ferry Bridge **SY67** 1995 *Unknown*; Ferry Bridge **SY67** vii-2000 *JH*; Mudeford Spit **SZ19** vii-2001 *JH*; Brownsea Island **SZ08** 2007 *MAS*.

Nysius helveticus Herrich-Schaffer, 1850

Status: RDB3 [10+]

Originally known as *Nysius lateralis*, this bug can be distinguished from all the other British species in this genus by the pale keel on the scutellum. It is also the only one in which the food plant can be given with some certainty. When found it is always in the presence of heather. Although there are 11 records for this species, six of them come from just two locations, these being Hartland Moor NNR and Slepe Heath. Nationally it can be found in suitable locations in the southern counties. In Dorset it is confined to the east of the county.

First recorded from Bournemouth **SZ09** 1892 *JCD*, with the most recent from Hartland Moor **SY98** 1967 *GEW*.

Nysius graminicola Kolenati, 1846

Status: RDB3 [1]

This species was first recorded in Britain by AAA in 1977 from the sand dunes at Littlesea near Studland (Allen 1984). It remained the only record until 2003 when it was found in Essex.

Nysius senecionis Schilling, 1829

Status: Local [3]

Although superficially similar to other species in the genus it can be distinguished from other *Nysius* species by the relative lengths of the hind tarsal segments. First recorded in mainland Britain in East Sussex 1992, this bug has gradually been moving northwards and westward and is now widely scattered along coastal counties.

It was first recorded in Dorset from Poole Bay Cliffs **SZ08** vi-2001 *JH*. The other records are from Goathorn Peninsula **SZ08** v-2007 *JH* and Brownsea Island **SZ08** 2007 *MAS*.

Nysius cymoides Spinola, 1837

This species was mistakenly recorded from Brownsea Island 2008. (Salmon, 2009)

Orsillus depressus Dallas, 1852

Status: Nationally notable [1]

Since first being discovered in Britain in late 1987 this seed bug has become well established in the southern counties. In Britain it is most often associated with Lawson's Cypress *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*. Although there is only one record from Dorset, the beating of the host tree could produce further locations.

The only record is from Brownsea Island **SZ08** 2007 *MAS*.

Ortholomus punctipennis Herrich-Schaffer, 1839

Status: RDB3 [2]

All British captures of this species have been from sandy places, either on heathland or sand dunes. Its host plant is unknown. Nationally it has only been found in six locations ranging from Dorset to North Lincolnshire.

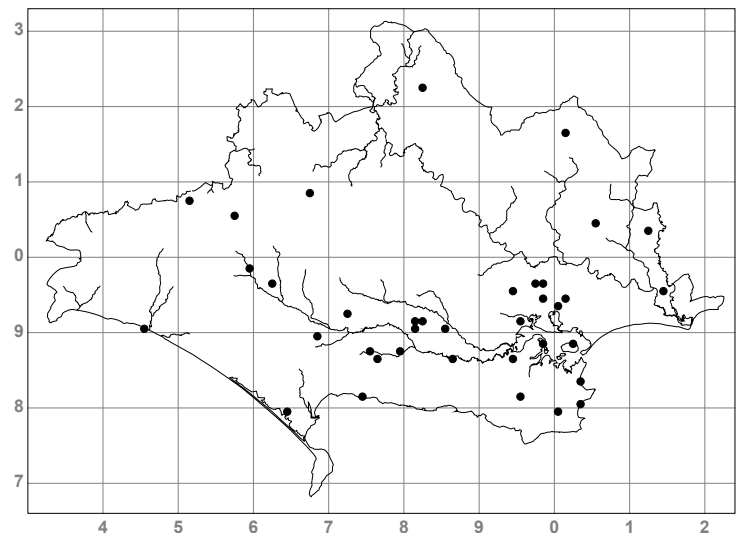
Studland **SZ08** 1937 *AMM*; Studland **SZ08** 1964 *MGM*.

Kleidocerys resedae Panzer, 1927

Status: Common [20+]

Both this species and the following are very similar and can only be differentiated away from their natural environment by their size or genitalia. This smelly little bug can be found on a host of plants including Silver Birch *Betula pendula*, Alder *Alnus glutinosa* and more recently Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*. It overwinters as an adult, re-emerging in early June to mate and lay its eggs on the fruits on its host tree. It has a British distribution as far north as Lancashire and other than the mid-Dorset downs is widely distributed throughout the county.

The first record was under the name of *Ischnorhynchus resedae* at Glanvilles Wootton **ST60** ix-1867 *JCD*. The most recent record is from Chedington Wood **ST40** vi-2008 *JH*.

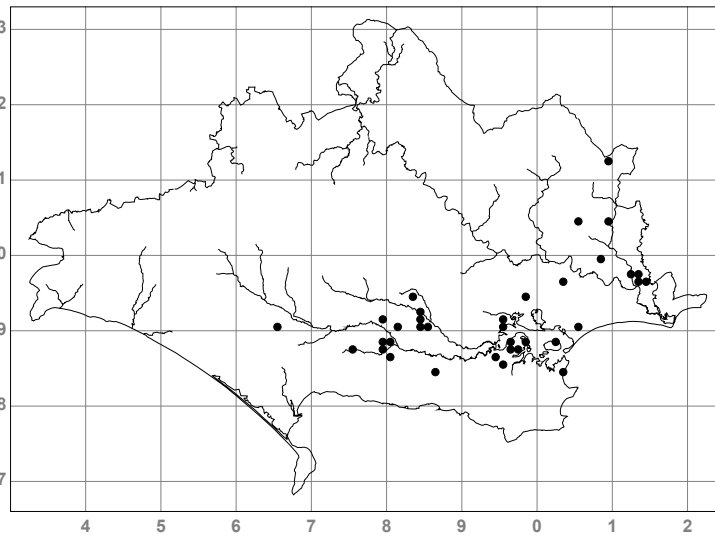


Kleidocerys truncatulus ericae Hovath, 1910

Status: Common [20+]

As previously stated this bug is a smaller version of the above species, however it is associated with heather and consequently will most often be found in those habitats. Its biology is similar to *K. resedae* and its national distribution is also similar but restricted to those areas having a moor or heathland environment.

The first Dorset record is from Parley Heath **SZ09** undated *JCD*, with the most recent being from Turners Puddle Heath **SY89** vii-2008 *JH*.



***Pachybrachius fracticollis* Schilling, 1829**

Status: Local [4]

This genus with a noticeable lateral constriction of the pronotum is restricted to areas characterised by Cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium*, sedges and Bog Myrtle *Myrica gale* and in the case of the next species *Sphagnum* bogs. Overwintering in dryer areas, it then returns to wet marshland to breed in the spring. Although it has a wide distribution in England it is rarely found. In Dorset it appears to be restricted to the east of the county. Bedwell (1945) shows it as being recorded from Dorset but with no other information.

First traceable record is from Littlesea **SZ08** 1964 *MGM*; Studland **SZ08** v-1977 *AAA*; Holt Heath **SU00** 1994 *MAS*.

***Pachybrachius luridus* Hahn, 1826**

Status: RDB3 [1]

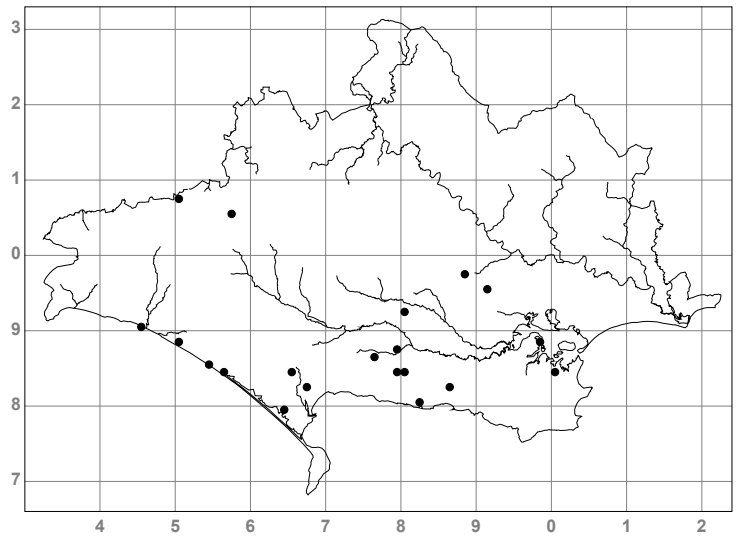
Sphagnum bogs are a relatively common occurrence on the heathlands of east Dorset and as such could possibly support more communities of this bug than the single record from Wareham Forest **SY88** (Kirby, 1992). However that is the sole location for this species associated with that habitat. Nationally it has only been found in four southern counties.

***Peritrechus geniculatus* Hahn, 1832**

Status: Common [10+]

P. geniculatus is the most common species in the genus and can be found mainly on light sandy or chalky soils amongst leaves and mosses. As with all species in the genus it overwinters as an adult and mates in May, with the nymphs reaching adulthood in August. It is to be found throughout England as far north as Lancashire and distribution in Dorset is more or less confined to coastal and eastern regions.

First Dorset record is from Morden **SY99** v-1923 *FHH* with the most recent being from Crookhill Brickpit **SY67** iv-2008 *DH*.



***Peritrechus gracilicornis* Puton, 1877**

Status: RDB K [1]

The only Dorset record for this bug comes from the sand dunes at Studland **SZ08** v-1977 *AAA* where he indicates that it appears to be well established (*AAA* 1980). Nationally it has only been recorded as singletons from Kent, Surrey and Hampshire but there is a possibility that these are isolated vagrants.

***Peritrechus lundii* Gmelin, 1789**

Status: Local [10+]

This bug is associated with a variety of habitats where it can find suitable conditions for breeding and feeding, namely meadows, heaths and dry field margins. It is found in England from most lowland counties and sparsely in Scotland and Wales. In Dorset the only records come from the south and east.

The first record is found in Saunders (1892) as being from Parley Heath **SZ09** prior to 1892 *JCD* under the name of *P. luniger*. The last being Hartland Moor **SY98** iv-1997 *BN*.

***Peritrechus nubilus* Fallen, 1807**

Status: Local [3]

As with *P. lundii* this bug can be found in a variety of habitats but nationally is much more restricted, only being found in southern and eastern coastal counties as far north as Norfolk. Its life cycle is much the same as the other species within the genus. Although there are a number of specimens in the Dale collection, none can be attributed to Dorset.

First record Coombe Wood **SY88** vi-1918 *FHH*; West Parley **SZ09** iii-1935 *SCSB*; Studland **SZ08** v-1977 *AAA*.

Beosus maritimus Scopoli, 1763

Status: Local [2]

As its name suggests this bug is primarily associated with coastal areas where it is found among the roots of plants growing in sandy places. As with other ground bugs this species overwinters as an adult, mates in spring, with the young maturing in August. Nationally it is found in coastal counties from South Wales to Essex.

The earliest Dorset record is quoted by Saunders (1892) as coming from Parley Heath **SZ09** 1892 *JCD*. This seems to be out of context with recorded habitat and the specimen is not in the Dale Collection so cannot be confirmed. The only other record is from East Weares Portland **SY77** viii-2003 *JH*.

Graptopeltus lynceus Fabricius, 1775

Status: Notable B [6]

A bug stated by both Southwood and Butler as usually found in warm dry sandy areas. Two of the Dorset locations stated by Haines, Coombe Wood and Wood Street, are now both unsuitable due to destruction by modern plantations. Nationally found in southern coastal and inland counties.

First record from Ringstead **SY78** iv-1914 where it was found again v-1915 *FHH*; Coombe Wood **SY88** v-1917 and again v-1918 *FHH*; Wood Street **SY88** v-1917 *FHH*; Swanage **SZ07** v-1935 *SCSB*.

Raglius alboacuminatus Goeze, 1779

Status: Notable B [1]

Most records for this bug come from areas of light sandy or chalky soils where it is possibly associated with black horehound, where it feeds on fallen seeds. Nationally it has been recorded from many of the southern counties.

The only Dorset record is found in Saunders (1892) and comes from Portland **SY77** 1892 *JCD*.

Rhyparochromus pini Linnaeus, 1758

Status: Notable B [10+]

This bug can be found by searching among debris on dry sandy or chalky banks, particularly where there is a presence of pine needles. As with many of the Lygaeidae it is known to feed on seeds. Nationally it is found in most counties south of a Wash/ Severn line. Other than one record from the chalk, Dorset locations are in the eastern heathlands.

First record Knighton Heath **SZ09** 1892 *JCD* with the most recent from Avon County Park **SU10** viii-2005 *ICC*.

Megalonotus antennatus Schilling, 1829

Status: Notable B

Again a bug of sandy and dry places amidst a variety of habitats with no apparent common factors. Its distribution is restricted to southern counties.

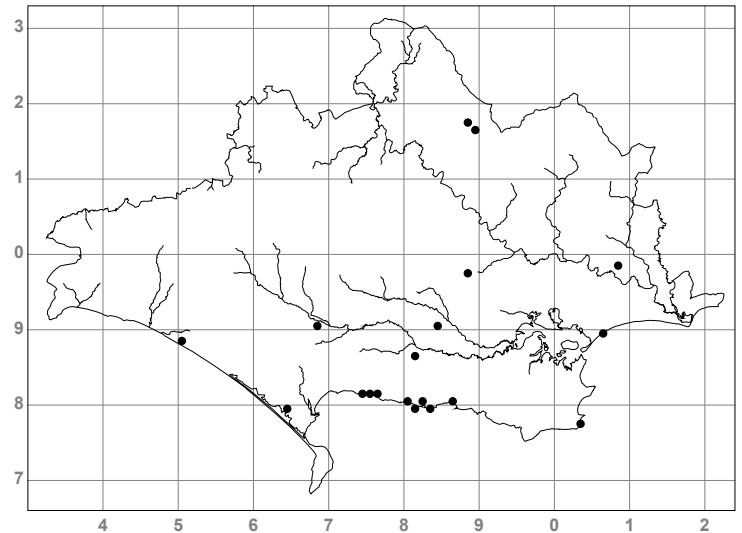
First mention of this bug in Dorset comes from Bedwell (1945) but no other information can be found.

Megalonotus chiragra Fabricius, 1794

Status: Common [20+]

This is the most common of the genus and can be found as far north as Lincolnshire and parts of Wales. As with other members of the genus it lives in dry sandy areas and quarries where it can be found under plant debris. The genus can be recognised by the large tooth together with some smaller ones on the underside of the front femur. Dorset records are spread throughout the south and east of the county.

First Dorset record is from Portland **SY67** vi-1837 *JCD* with the most recent being from Goathorn Peninsula **SZ08** vi-2007 *JH*.

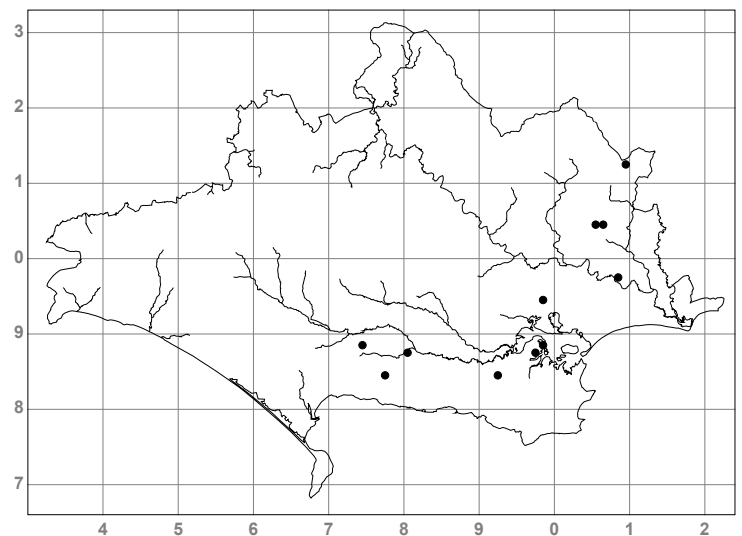


Megalonotus dilatatus Herrich-Schaffer, 1840

Status: Notable B [10+]

Another bug of dry sandy habitats with a covering of debris, however this species is confined to the southern counties. In Dorset it has been recorded from the Poole Basin and the Avon Valley.

First record Parley Heath **SZ09** 1892 *JCD* and the most recent being Goathorn Peninsula **SZ08** vi-2007 *JH*.



Megalonotus praetextatus Herrich-Schaffer, 1840

Status: Notable B [7]

The habitat and biology of this bug is similar to others in the genus with its national distribution again restricted to southern counties.

First records are found in Saunders (1892) from Weymouth **SY67** 1892 *WGB*; Portland **SY67** 1892 *JCD*; Chesil Beach **SY67** v-1920 *FHH*; Crichel **ST90** iv-1939 *SCSB*; Ferry Bridge **SY67** 1995 *Unknown*; Brownsea Island **SZ08** 2007 *MAS*.

Megalonotus sabulicola Thomson, 1870

Status: Notable B

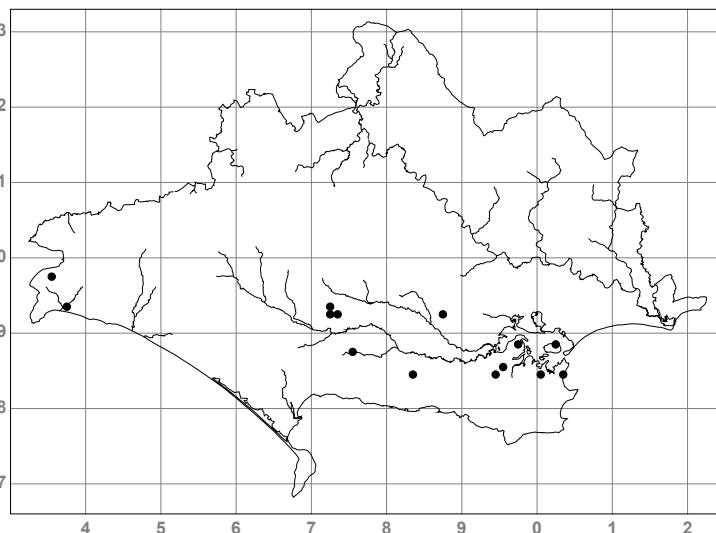
From a British aspect this species was not separated from *M. chiragra* until 1963 when Southwood changed it from being a sub species to being a separate species. It is therefore possible that some of the *M. chiragra* records prior to this date could belong to this species. Kirby (1992) gives it as occurring in Dorset but DERC holds no record of the location or date.

Trapezonotus arenarius Linnaeus, 1758

Status: Common[10+]

This genus of ground bugs can be differentiated from other genera by the thin marginal strip to the pronotum. Both Saunders and Southwood give the following two species as forms of this species while Butler separates them. The differences between the species are in their size and leg colouring. This species is found over a wide range of habitats in dry situations including heathland, chalk downland and dry woods. It has a widespread distribution in Britain.

There are six specimens of this common species in the Dale Collection without data, it is possible one or some of them come from Dorset. Otherwise the first positive record is Upper Bockhampton **SY79** v-1917 *FHH* with the most recent from Goathorn Peninsula **SZ08** v-2007 *JH*.



Trapezonotus desertus Seidenstucker, 1951

Status: Common [2]

Southwood suggests that the form usually found on downs and heathland is more likely to be this species.

Stoborough **SY98** viii-1984 *BN*; Brownsea Island **SZ08** 2007 *MAS*.

Trapezonotus dispar Stal, 1873

Status: Local [3]

Southwood suggests that the form usually found in woods is more likely to be this species.

Winfrith **SY88** 1926 *FHH*; Crichel **ST90** ix-1940 *SCSB*; Piddles Wood **ST71** vii-1997 *JH*.

Macrodema micropterum Curtis, 1836

Status: Common [50+]

This short winged bug is easily recognised in its preferred habitat of moors and heaths. The adults overwinter and mate in May sticking their eggs to dead stems of heather or ling. Nationally it is found throughout Great Britain except where there is an absence of suitable habitat. With over 50 Dorset records, this is one of the most common ground bugs and could be expected to turn up in all areas of heathland.

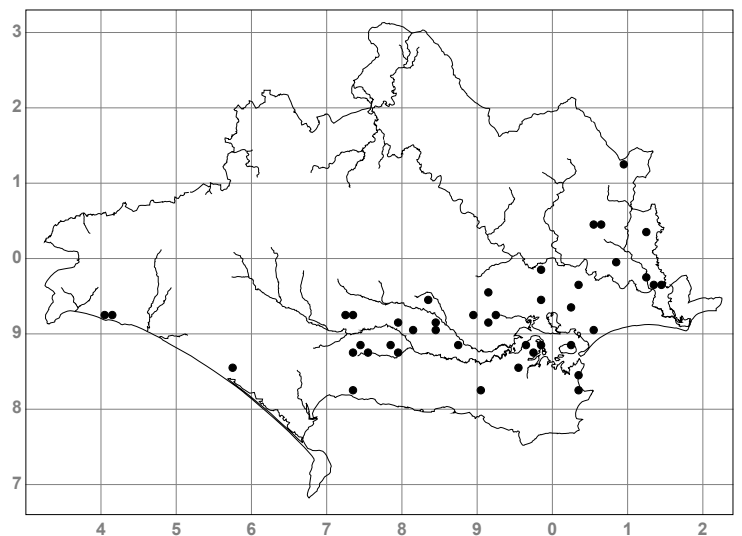
First record is from Portland **SY67** vi-1837 *JCD* with the most recent being from Wool Heath **SY89** vi-2007 *JH*.

Pionosomus varius Wolff, 1804

Status: RDB3

This bristly bug is associated with herbs and grasses found on sand-dunes. Nationally it is more or less restricted to Kent.

The only Dorset record is from Swanage **SZ07** –1892 *TAM* although this is unsupported by a specimen (Saunders 1892).



Aphanus rolandri Linnaeus, 1758

Status: Notable A [2]

Another bug easily recognised in the field, being black with a single red spot at the base of the wing membrane. It is a bug of field margins and cliffs. As with most ground bugs in overwinters as an adult i.e the East Knighton specimen was found by breaking open a dried stem of Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* in February. Nationally it has only been found in the southern coastal counties and Essex.

Recorded from Portland **SY67** v-1892 *CWD* and East Knighton **SY88** ii-1999 *JH*, whilst the most recent is from Brownsea Island **SZ08** 2007 *MAS*.

Tropistethus holosericeus Scholtz, 1847

Status: Notable B

One of the smaller ground bugs at an average of 2mm long, this species is found along the south coast and a few of the southern inland counties where it lives amongst low vegetation and mosses on sand, chalk or shingle. Overwintering as an adult it mates in June, with nymphs becoming adult in August.

Butler (1928) states that this species has been found in Dorset but DERC holds no further information.

Acompus rufipes Wolff, 1804

Status: Local [5]

The preferred habitat for this local bug is bog and fens where its host plant is thought to be Valerian. Whilst most of the Dorset records can be associated with wet areas, the Bindon Hill site is an enigma although it could refer to the wetter area at the base of the hill. The lack of recent records is probably down to recorder effort. It has been recorded from Scotland and the north of England but is much more common in the south.

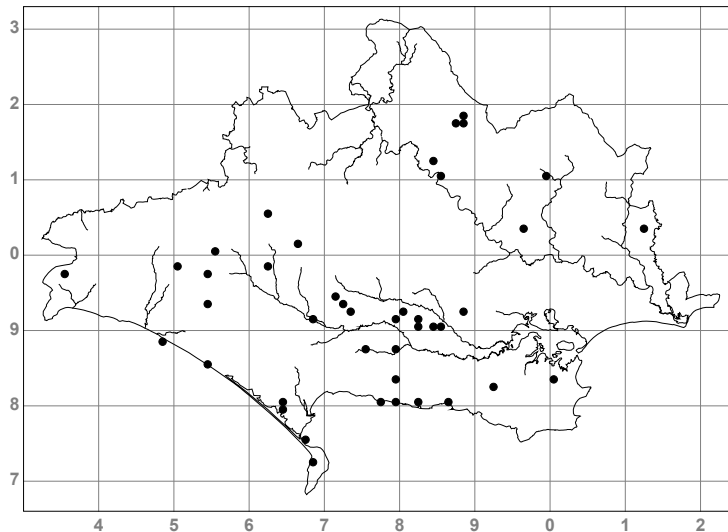
Glanvilles Wootton **ST60** 1892 *JCD*; Winfrith Heath **SY88** 1914 *FHH*; Wool **SY88** vi-1945 *CDD*; Moreton **SY88** x-1948 *CDD*; Bindon Hill **SY88** -1960 *CHA*.

Stygnocoris sabulosus Schilling, 1829

Status: Common [50+]

The three species in this genus are all relatively common and are found on dry light and dry soils. Unlike many other genera of ground bugs these do not possess spines on the underside of the front femur. Both this and the next species are unusual in that they overwinter in the form of eggs that hatch out in June. Nationally this species is found throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. In Dorset the species is widespread over the county.

First recorded from Godlingston Heath **SZ08** vi-1910 *FHH* whilst the most recent is from Brownsea Island **SZ08** 2007 *MAS*.

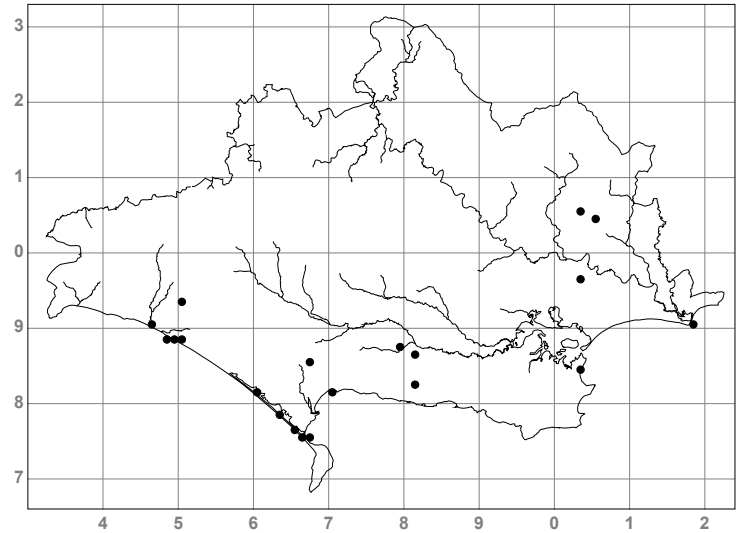


Stygnocoris fuliginus Gooffroy, 1758

Status: Common [20+]

Unlike the previous two species this bug overwinters as an adult with mating taking place in April and early May. It is also more catholic in its choice of habitat and is equally at home on damper, heavier soils. Nationally it is also found throughout the British Isles except for upland areas. In Dorset it appears to be more of a coastal species.

First record is from Burton Common **SY58** viii-1969 *RC*, whilst the most recent is from Brownsea Island **SZ08** 2007 *MAS*.



Stygnocoris rusticus Fallen, 1807

Status: Local [8]

This species occurs in similar habitats to the previous species although more restricted in its national distribution. Southwood states that it is yet to be found in Scotland. The eggs hatch slightly earlier, in late May. Nationally this species is found throughout England and Wales except in upland areas. Dorset distribution is sparsely scattered.

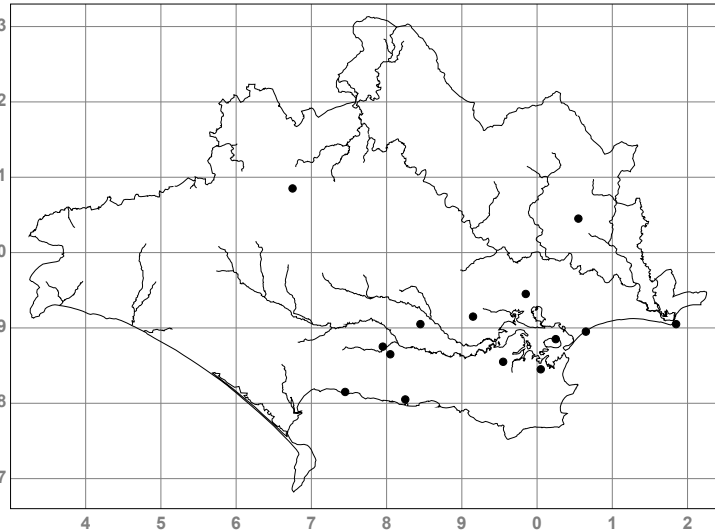
Parley Heath **SZ09** -1892 *JCD*; Glanvilles Wootton **ST60** -1892 *JCD*; Ballard Down **SZ01** xi-1981 *MGM*; Furzy Cliff **SY68** viii-1982 *MGM*; Crincombe Bottom **ST80** viii-1986 *MGM*; Hambledon Hill **ST81** 1994 *MAS*; Durlston C.P. **SZ07** ix-2006 *JH*.

Plinthisus brevipennis Latreille, 1807

Status: Local [10+]

This small black glossy bug can be recognised immediately in the field as it looks like no other ground bug. The habitat given is quarries, sand-dunes and sandy heaths and as can be seen from the distribution map most of the Dorset records come from the heathlands in the Poole Basin. Nationally it is found as far north as Yorkshire but absent from the midlands due to a lack of suitable habitat.

First recorded from Weymouth **SY68** –1892 *WGB* and the most recent from Wool Heath **SY98** vi-2007 *JH*.



Lasiosomus enervis Herrich-Schaffer, 1841

Status: Notable B

This uncommon bug has been found overwintering in grass tussocks on dry and sandy soils and appears to be restricted to southern counties. It has quite likely been overlooked in the county because of its secretive lifestyle.

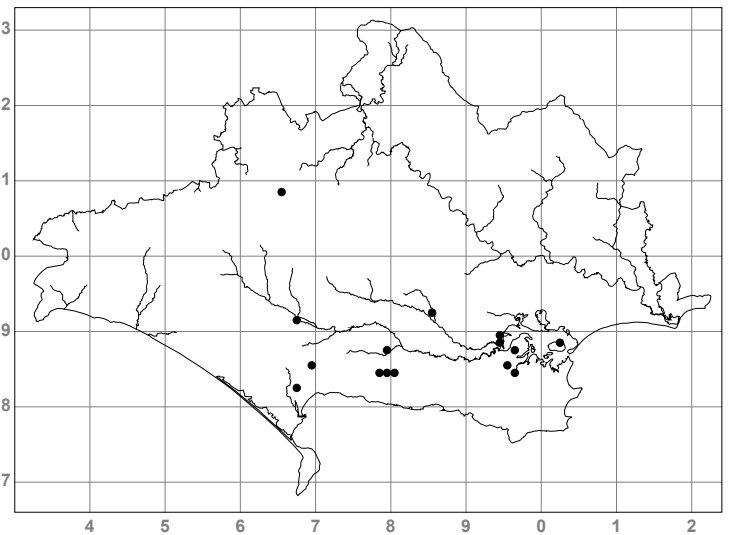
Bedwell (1945) gives this species as being recorded from Dorset whereas Butler (1928) gives no indication of its presence. DERC holds no information on the location or recorder.

Ischnodemus sabuleti Fallen, 1826

Status: Common [10+]

This ground bug with the common name of European chinchbug comes in three forms i.e. long, medium and short length wings. Whilst the long winged form (wings longer than the abdomen) is very rare the other two are produced in about a 50:50 ratio. It overwinters both as an adult and a nymph in clumps of grass and reeds in wet meadows, emerging to mate in April to May where it becomes more catholic in its habitat. In recent years it has spread from its stronghold in the south-east to become quite a common bug in most southern counties where it can be found in damper areas on its host plants of reed-grass and hair grass. Nationally it can be found from Dorset to Yorkshire but has not yet been recorded from Wales or the South-West Peninsula. In Dorset there are scattered records as far west as Weymouth.

First Dorset record is from Brownsea Island **SZ08** 1977 *AJW*, whilst the most recent is from Brownsea Island **SZ08** 2007 *MAS*.



Ischnodemus quadratus Fieber, 1836

Status: RDB1 [1]

Southwood (1958) gives this and *I. sabuleti* as subspecies but recent studies show that they are worthy of a separate species status. The difference between them being that *I. quadratus* is constantly smaller in width. Both have the same habitat requirements but this species is far more restricted in its range.

The only Dorset record is from Lulworth Cove **SY87** vi-1996 *BN*.

Ischnocoris angustulus Boheman, 1853

Status: Local [7]

This long narrow bug differs from most of the other species in the family by not having distinct spines on the front femur. It has a preference for dry heathy habitats where it is found beneath the heather. Nationally it is mainly found in the south but there are sparse records as far north as Aviemore. The Dorset distribution is strange in that its habitat ranges from coastal situations to heathland and agricultural land.

Glanvilles Wootton **ST60** –1878 *JCD*; Redbridge **SY78** v-1911 *FHH*; West Lulworth **SY88** iii-1923 *FHH*; Studland Heath **SZ08** 1964 *MGM/AMM*; Tadnole Reserve **SY78** i-2001 and again iii-2001 *JH*.

Drymus latus Douglas & Scott, 1871

Status: Notable B [4]

Other than the common *D. sylvatica* and *D. brunneus*, many of the species in this genus are difficult to differentiate and as such there has been much confusion. This particular bug has been found in litter and as with other species in the genus it overwinters as an adult. Other than that, little is known regarding its biology. Nationally restricted to southern counties, in Dorset it has only been taken on chalk.

Tyneham Gwyle **SY87** –1923 (Butler 1923); Hod Hill **ST81** 1968 *MGM*; Hod Hill **ST81** 1988 *SJ*; West Chaldon **SY78** ix-1996 *JH*.

Drymus pilicornis Mulsant, 1852

Status: Notable B [3]

As with the previous species, separation of this species is difficult but the three Dorset records are all from respected entomologist and can be taken as correct. The bug is mainly associated with chalk downland and nationally is restricted to the south of Britain. In Dorset there have been no records since 1968 despite recent survey work being carried out on suitable habitats.

Bournemouth **SZ09** 1937 *AMM*; Cranborne **SU01** ix-1937 *SCSB*; Hod Hill **ST81** 1968 *MGM*.

Drymus pilipes Fieber, 1861

Status: Notable A [5]

As with *D. latus* little is known regarding the biology of this bug except that it has been recorded from both sandy areas and chalk downland. Nationally it is found in six southern counties, whilst Dorset records are very sparse with no records since 1964.

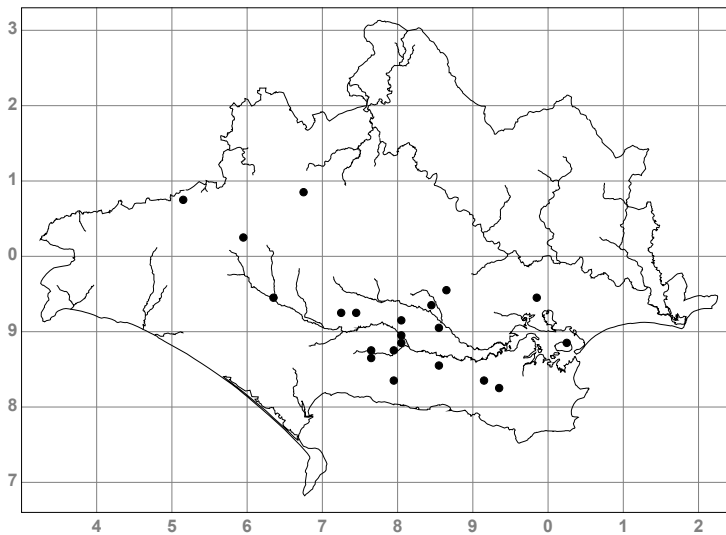
Bournemouth **SZ09** 1937 *WJLQ*; Cranborne **SU01** viii-1937 *SCSB*; Parley Heath **SZ09** -1963 *AMM*; Parley Heath **SZ09** 1964 *MGM*.

Drymus brunneus Sahlberg, 1848

Status: Common [20+]

This species and *D. sylvaticus* are likely to be the first ground bugs found in this genus by the casual collector. It is found in slightly damper places than *D. sylvaticus* and will be present in most woods and commons throughout the Great Britain. Unlike other species within the genus this species overwinters as adults or larvae. The distribution map shows that this species is more restricted than *D. sylvaticus*.

First recorded Glanvilles Wootton **ST60** 1878 *JCD*, last recorded from Ryeclose Fen **SY78** viii-2005 *JH*.



Drymus pumilio Puton, 1878

Status: Notable B [2]

Southwood (1959) gives this bug as first being recorded from Studland in 1934 with records from only two other counties, whilst Kirby (1998) adds another five counties. It is thought to prefer drier habitats i.e chalk downland.

The only other Dorset record is from Blandford **ST80** iii-1940 *SCSB*.

Drymus ryei Douglas & Scott, 1865

Status: Common [5]

This bug is very similar to *Drymus sylvaticus* and until 1957 was recorded as a variety of that species and the earliest records are given as that. It has the same widespread distribution as *D. sylvaticus* but is not as common. It has a preference for dry situations on light soils. Its distribution in Dorset suggests that it is possibly an overlooked species.

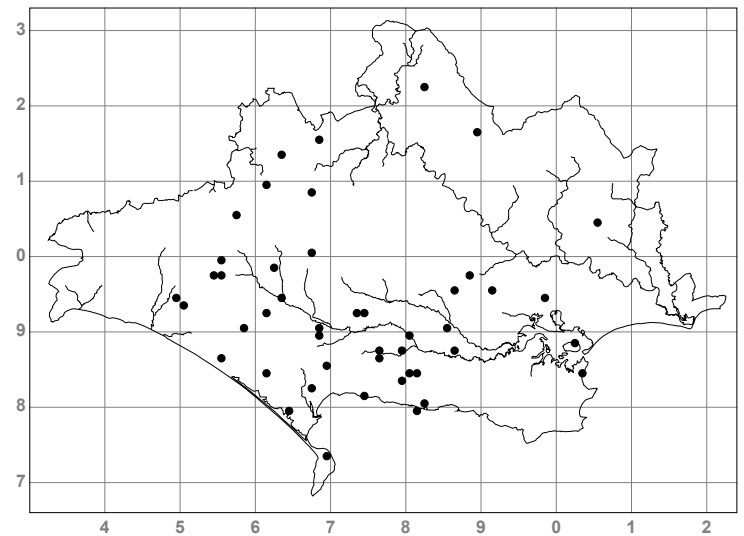
Ringstead **ST78** v-1915 *FHH*; Coombe Wood **SY88** v-1920 *FHH*; Cranborne **SU01** x-1956 *SCSB*; Stutcombe Bottom **ST50** iii-1997 *MAS*; Powerstock Common **SY59** vi-2000 *JH*; whilst the most recent is from Brownsea Island **SZ08** 2007 *MAS*.

Drymus sylvaticus Fabricius, 1775

Status: Common [50+]

This species is to be found in most dry habitats containing moss, plant litter or grass and is one of the commonest ground bugs in the country. Nationally it is found throughout Great Britain. In Dorset the records are spread fairly evenly except for the central chalk downland. However this could be due to lack of recording effort.

This was recorded in Glanvilles Wootton **ST60** 1878 *JCD* with the most recent being Dorchester **SY68** iv-2007 *DH*.



Lamprolax picea Flor, 1860

Status: Local [2]

Unlike many of the other ground bugs this species prefers damper habitats, specifically around sphagnum bogs and areas with rushes. With one generation a year it becomes adult in August and overwinters amongst plant litter. Although found as far north as Scotland it is mainly found in the south.

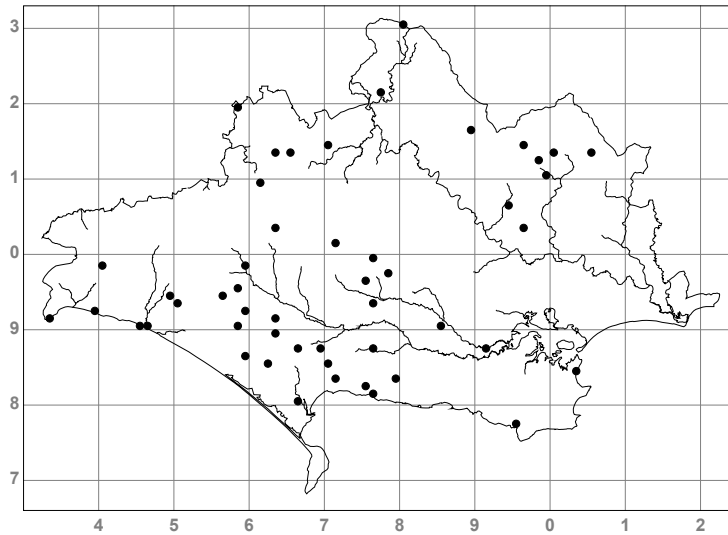
East Stoke **SY88** x-1908 *FHH*; Oakers Wood **SY89** vii-1984 *AJW*.

Scolopostethus thomsoni Reuter, 1874

Status: Common [50+]

A very common bug which, unlike a majority of the Lygaeidae, is most often taken by sweeping rank vegetation especially Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica*. It is found throughout the British Isles in damp meadows, hedgerows, parks and gardens. Records show that it is widespread in the county.

First recorded from Cranborne **SU01** v-1936 *SCSB* and last from Crookhill Brick Pit **SY68** v-2006 *JH*.

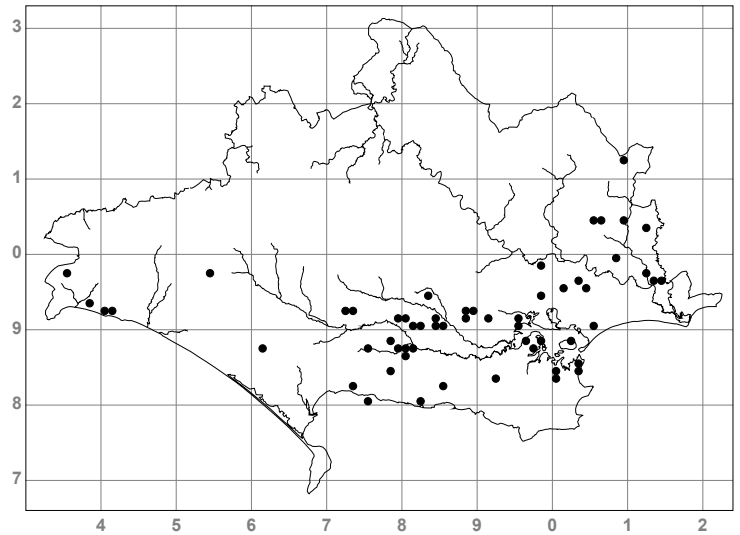


Scolopostethus decoratus Hahn, 1833

Status: Common [50+]

Almost any area of heathland in England and southern Scotland will provide a suitable habitat for this species. It can be found in the adult form throughout the year, overwintering in the same location as it spends the summer months. Except for a few locations around Charmouth, the spread of Dorset records show its dependence on heathland.

First record from Godlingston Heath **SZ08** ix-1910 *FHH* and last from Wool Heath **SY89** ix-2007 *JH*.

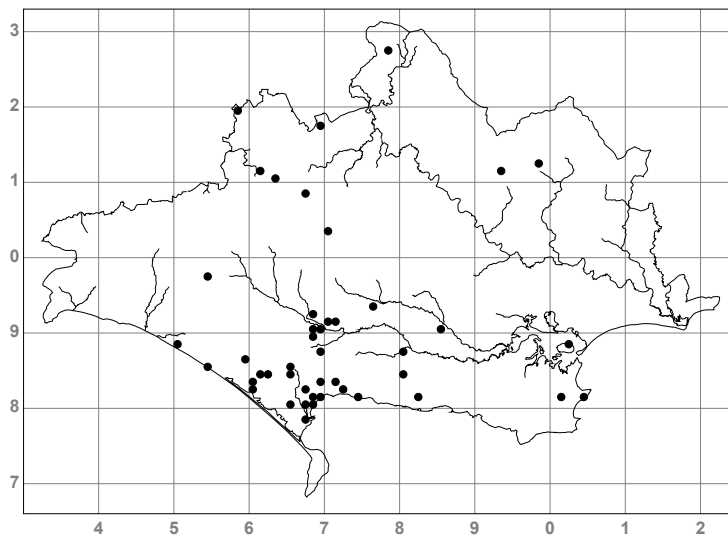


Scolopostethus affinis Schilling, 1829

Status: Common [50+]

This bug is found in similar habitats to *S. thomsoni* and has a similar life cycle. Although it is found throughout the British Isles it is not as common in the north. The accumulation of records from southern central Dorset is probably due to recorder bias.

First recorded from Glanvilles Wootton **ST60** 1878 *JCD* whilst the most recent is from Brownsea Island **SZ08** 2007 *MAS*.



Scolopostethus pictus Schilling, 1829

Status: Notable A [3]

The general overall size and its completely pale antennae separates this bug from other members of the genus. In the past this species has been associated with corn stacks and refuse of a similar nature where it is thought to feed on fungi. It is possible the changes in traditional farming could explain the lack of modern records. Nationally it is confined to the southern counties. In Dorset the last record was taken in 1937.

Glanvilles Wootton **ST60** vii-1862 *JCD*; Charmouth **SY39** -1892 *JCD*; Blandford **ST80** xi-1937 *SCSB*.

Scolopostethus grandis Horvath, 1881

Status: Local [6]

This species is very similar to the more common *S. affinis* and possibly could be mistaken for such in the field. However unlike that species it inhabits the more typical habitat of ground bugs i.e. leaf litter and plant debris. Again nationally it is a species of southern counties with all Dorset records taken from the central southern area, again possibly due to recorder bias.

Winfrith **SY88** iv-1914 *FHH*; Sheeps Walk **SY88** 1995 *JH*; Thorncombe Wood **SY78** 1995 *JH*; Five Marys **SY78** v-1996 *JH*; Winfrith **SY88** v-2000 *JH*; Ryeclose Fen **SY77** ix-2005 *JH*.

Scolopostethus puberulus Hovath, 1887

Status: Local [2]

As its name suggests this species can be differentiated from others in the genus by the thick pubescence on the forewings. It has been found by searching the moss amongst taller vegetation at the base of cliffs and in marshy places. Nationally restricted generally to the coastal southern counties with the occasional record from inland.

Charmouth **SY39** iv-1937 *SCSB*; Higher Hyde **SY89** iii-1997 *JH*.

Ermocoris podagricus Fabricius, 1775

Status: Local [1]

The genus *Ermocoris* contains three species in Britain, this being the most common and only one to occur in Dorset. This species is associated with plant debris on sandy heathland and possibly ants nests. Nationally it is only found south of the Wash/Severn line.

The sole Dorset record is from Holt Forest **SU00** 1994 *MAS*.

Taphropeltus contractus Herrich-Schaffer, 1839

Status: Common [7]

As with many ground bugs this species can be found beneath dead leaves and other plant debris in dry chalky and sandy places. It is found throughout England and Wales with some records from Scotland. Dorset records are mainly coastal.

Portland **SY67** iv-1912 *FHH*; Ringstead **SY78** v-1917 *FHH*; Morden **SY99** v-1920 *FHH*; Ringstead **SY78** v-1978 *MGM*; Kimmeridge **SY97** vi-1981 *PK*; Ten Acre Plantation **SY68** iv-2002 *JH*; White Nothe **SY78** v-2005 *JH*.

Notochilus limbatus Fieber, 1870

Status: RDB3 [4]

Other than possibly *Ermocoris* sp this is the only species of ground bug tolerated by ants, although the exact association is unclear at the present. It has been found in a number of diverse habitats from derelict gardens to sphagnum bogs. It is mainly confined to the south, particularly the south-west.

Crichel **ST90** iii-1939 *SCSB*; Pimperne **ST81** iii-1940 *SCSB*; Ballard Point **SZ08** vi-1981 *PK*; Stubhampton Bottom **ST81** viii-1999 *JH*.

Gastrodes albietum Bergroth, 1914

Status: Local [1]

The common name for this species is the Spruce-cone bug, an apt name as it is confined to Norway Spruce *Picea abies* where it spends most of its life in the young cones in the tops of the trees. Both this and the following species can be separated from other ground bugs by their flattened appearance. Nationally it has been recorded from Scotland and scattered counties in England. However due to its lifestyle it is possibly under recorded.

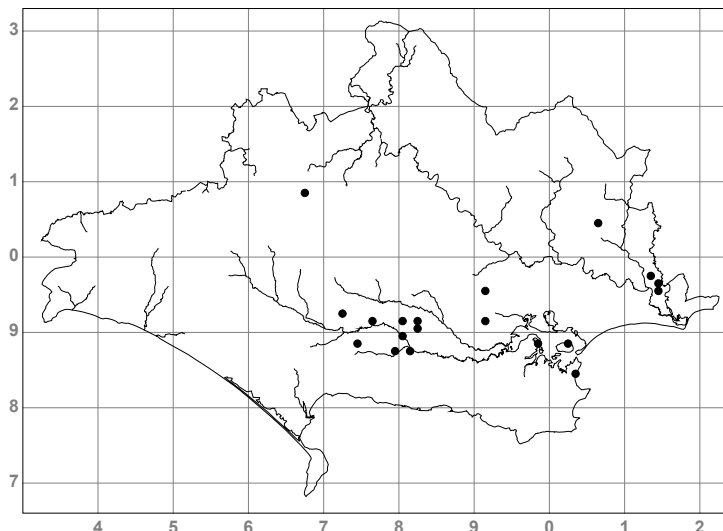
The sole record is from Chedington Wood **ST40** viii-2008 *JH* where it was taken from young cones at the top of a felled tree.

Gastrodes grossipes DeGeer, 1773

Status: Common [20+]

Commonly known as the Pine-cone bug, this arboreal species is likely to be found wherever Scot's Pine *Pinus sylvestris* is growing. Although it has been taken from other species of tree Scot's Pine is its usual host. As with *G. albietum* it overwinters as an adult in the cones. Nationally it can be found throughout the British Isles. Most Dorset records come from the central southern plantations but this is probably due to under recording.

First recorded from Pelles **ST60** ix-1868 *JCD* whilst the most recent is from Brownsea Island **SZ08** 2007 *MAS*.

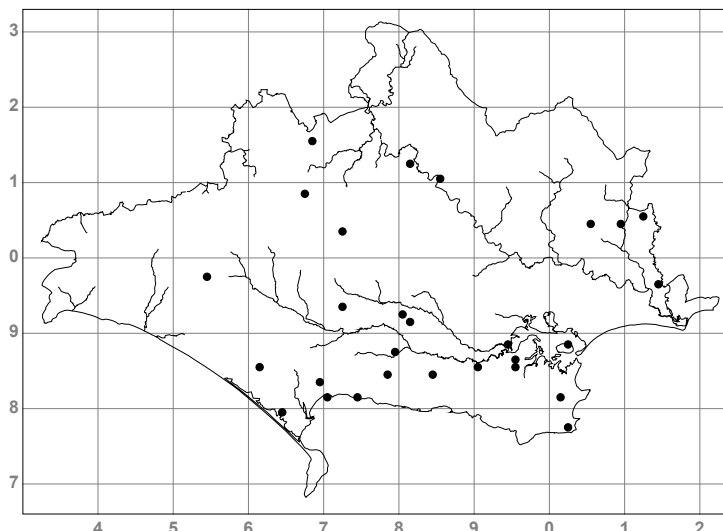


Cymus clavicularis Fallen, 1807

Status: Common [20+]

Three of the four species in this genus have been recorded from Dorset, all of them common in the south of the country. This species unlike the following two tends to prefer a drier habitat and can be found in meadows and heathland where its host plants are rushes. All species in the genus overwinter under moss, bark or similar, mate in spring, with the larvae reaching adulthood from July onwards. Dorset records are scattered throughout the county.

First record is from Glanvilles Wootton **ST60** vii-1866 *JCD* whilst the most recent is from Wyke Farm **ST50** vii-2007 *JH*.

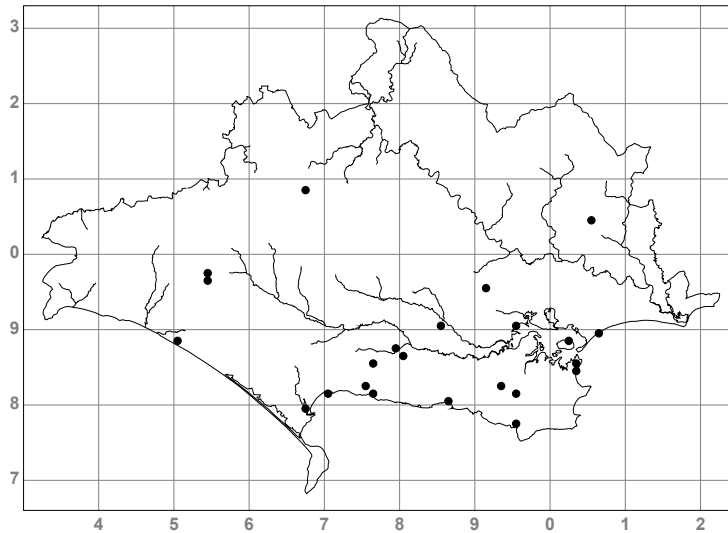


Cymus glandicolor Hahn, 1832

Status: Common [20+]

Both this and the following species are found in damper habitats usually in wet meadows and heaths and areas with a clay substrate. The host plants of this species are sedges. Most Dorset records are from the Poole Basin with some scattered locations in the west of the county.

First Dorset record is from Glanvilles Wootton **ST60** 1878 *JCD* whilst the most recent is from Brownsea Island **SZ08** 2007 *MAS*.

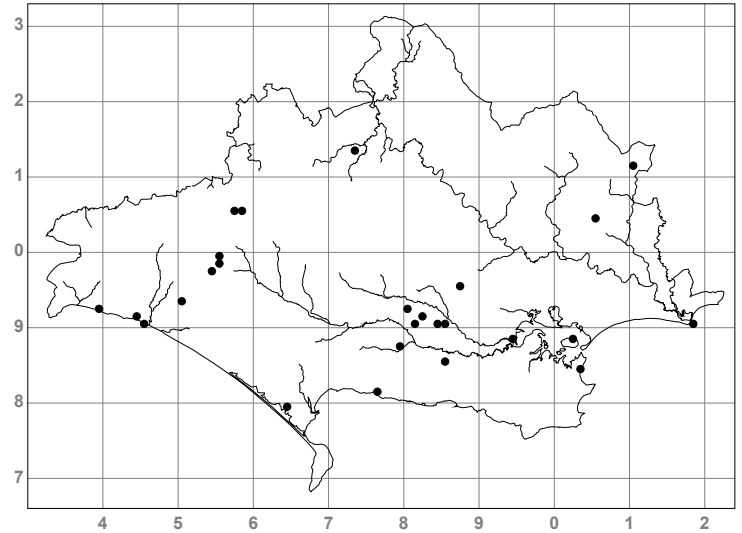


Cymus melanocephalus Fieber, 1861

Status: Common [20+]

Again a species of damper habitats where its host plant is rushes. Dorset records indicate that its strongholds are the western area of the county and heathlands in the Poole Basin.

The first record of this bug being found in Dorset is from Wood Street **SY88** v-1905 *FHH*, the most recent being Wool Heath **SY89** vi-2007 *JH*.



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The Status of Water Voles in Dorset

Water Voles (*Arvicola terrestris*) have dramatically declined in numbers in the UK over the last 40 years, earning them the moniker of 'Britain's most rapidly declining mammal'. This huge change in their status has been due to the dual pressures of loss of suitable habitat, i.e. slow flowing rivers, ponds or ditches, with abundant aquatic and emergent vegetation (water voles are totally vegetarian), and due to predation by the introduced American Mink (*Mustela vison*) which decimate populations, especially when female mink enter the water voles' burrows to hunt.

Because of concerns for the water vole, a National Survey in 1989/90, followed by systematic 5 yearly surveys for the mammal in 1996/7 and 2001/2, were carried out and co-ordinated in this county by the Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) in partnership with DERC. These covered 250 watery sites across the county chosen by grid squares, and by looking at historic records. These surveys were only possible due to the efforts of volunteer water vole surveyors trained by DWT staff (John Stobart, now the County Mammal recorder at Natural England, and Bronwen Bruce, now managing DWT's consultancy), and provided data on habitat type, otter, mink and water vole presence or absence. 33% of sites were found to be positive for water voles in 1996/7 and 39% in 2001/2.



Photo © C Wheeler

I joined DWT in 2004 and since then, we have reviewed the status of water voles in Dorset as far as possible, by carrying out a review of records and sites in West Dorset, one day 'blitz' surveys in key areas with volunteer help, a partial repeat of the county-wide survey in 2006/7 and some targeted mini-surveys in 2008, the results of which are shown on the map. This shows a 'snapshot' of the known water vole sites in Dorset. The main findings of this work, which has been funded by Wessex Water, the Environment Agency and several charitable trusts, were:

New populations identified on:

- The Fleet at Abbotsbury (the Swannery alerted us to this), after an absence of 12 years, and at the DWT reserve at West Bexington, again after an absence of some years

- The top of the Axe, where Mervyn Newman of the Devon Water Vole Recovery Project is monitoring populations
- The Brit, Simene and Asker
- The Bride, including right at the top of the catchment
- The Wey and Jordan including reedbeds at Lodmoor and Radipole (found during an excellent survey carried out by volunteers from the Dorset Otter Group, Wey Valley Society, RSPB and the Sealife Centre)
- The top of the Cerne and Sydling catchments
- The Swan at Swanage
- The Bourne Stream
-

Water voles are stable on:

- The lower Frome (the DWT reserve at Tadnoll is fantastic for water voles)
- Brownsea island (and even starred on BBC Autumnwatch)
- The top of the Stour catchment around Gillingham and on the River Allen

Water voles may have decreased on:

- The Lower Avon
- The Upper Frome

Water voles are extinct on:

- The Char

The status of water voles is not fully known on the Parrett and the Piddle.

Although we cannot directly compare the results of this work to previous surveys and we must be cautious as population size is not recorded, John Stobart comments: "The evidence we have suggests there has been no further contraction of the water vole's range in Dorset. In fact, these latest surveys suggest that the water vole population has remained stable and in some areas, such as West Dorset, the results indicate a range expansion as water voles recolonise some of the more marginal habitat. This sets Dorset apart from many other areas in the UK, where water vole status is still declining".



Photo © C Wheeler

We must, however, not become complacent. As well as surveys, DWT regularly advises landowners on best practice management techniques for water vole habitat, especially since the mammal gained full legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act in April 2008. In addition, we have been working in partnership with the British Association of Shooting and Conservation to develop a more co-ordinated programme of mink control within Dorset.

The 2006/7 survey highlighted the problem of trying to survey 250+ water vole sites without national funding. As a result, we have drawn up a shortlist of around 75 sites to consider in the next 5 yearly survey scheduled for 2011. These sites all contain suitable habitat, have contained water voles in the past, have had access permission and together cover the county and its catchments.

Already Dorset's water vole data is used on a day to day basis by the County Council and the Environment Agency. DERC has also supplied all our Dorset water vole data to the National Mapping Project who have been able to compile a national picture of water vole records, which is a first step in producing an 'alert' map for water vole key areas across the country. The Water Vole Biodiversity Action Plan steering group hopes that by utilising this approach, costly countryside surveys can be rationalised but still effective.

Rachel Janes

The DFG Visits the DFG

The list of fungi at the Defence Fuels Group (DFG), West Moors was originally not much more than a handful. It consisted of the more readily identifiable species that had been seen as we went about our way monitoring other flora and fauna throughout the year. Not being an expert meant that the “more interesting” species – to the fungi aficionado that is – either went unidentified or more likely unseen. This is because when fungi are at their most evident, everything else has finished. When the butterflies, dragonflies and flowers have disappeared and the wintering birds have yet to replace the long gone summer visitors, the fungi take centre stage.

Because of my sadly lacking knowledge regarding mushrooms and toadstools, a chance encounter with the secretary of the Dorset Fungus Group (DFG) at a local meeting at Moors Valley Country Park seemed an ideal opportunity to introduce myself. After the meeting I approached the DFG secretary, a Mr. Ken Roberts, who said that he would mention at their next meeting the fact that the DFG (Defence Fuels Group) would benefit from a visit by the DFG (Dorset Fungus Group). Confusing, isn't it? This he did.

Because of the fact that it was a new site for them and one that had a unique grounds maintenance system, which could prove interesting, it was decided to plan a visit. Ken wrote to the Director DFG, then Air Commodore Andrew Spinks, to ask permission for the visit to go ahead. Permission was kindly granted, on the understanding that a list of their findings would be made available for addition to the Site Dossier and that, for security reasons, the party would be accompanied by my wife, Ann and myself. Naturally I readily volunteered, for interest reasons! And so, on the 21st September 2003 the DFG made their first visit to the DFG!

A good number of interested, trug-toting fungiphiles assembled in the car park and after booking in were soon scouring the Depot like spaniels after truffles. The weather had been very dry for some period prior to the visit. Consequently the mycelia had not been encouraged to sprout forth their fruiting bodies in the form of mushrooms and toadstools. Their fount of all knowledge fungi-wise, Mark Pike, told us that some sites they had visited had only produced half a dozen or so species. After a pleasant morning enjoyed by all – certainly by me, who learnt a great deal – a total of 19 species were added to the paltry few I had found previously.

The Fly Agaric *Amanita muscaria*, the best-known toadstool to all readers of fairy tales, is normally prolific, as many of its favourite host the Silver Birch *Betula pendula* are on site. However, the dry spell had made them very scarce and it was well into the morning's foray before one was discovered. Several species came under the “good eating” classification, these included Penny Bun or Cep *Boletus edulis*, Field Mushroom *Agaricus campestris*,

The Prince *Agaricus augustus* and Parasol Mushroom *Macrolepiota procera*.

Encouraged by their findings, a return visit was arranged for the following year, on 7th November 2004, hoping that there would be more rain prior to the visit than in 2003. And it came to pass that there was indeed more rain, consequently there were a good deal more species to be found – 35 in all with only 6 of those being recorded on the DFG's first foray.

Among those found were several unusual species such as: Variable Oysterling *Crepidotus variabilis*, which favours Gorse *Ulex europaeus* as a host plant, Smooth Earthtongue *Geoglossum cookieanum*, Herald of the Winter *Hygrophorus hypothejus*, several ‘waxcap’ species including Scarlet Waxcap *Hygrocybe coccinea*, Meadow Waxcap *H. pratensis* and Snowy Waxcap *H. virginea*, Hedgehog Fungus *Hydnum repandum*, an excellent edible fungus, the seldom seen, impudent Dog Stinkhorn *Mutinus caninus* and the Yellow False Truffle *Rhizopogon luteolus*, which is related to the puffball but rarer.

Having increased the number of species on the list by a further 29, the DFG were keen to return the following year to see if they could add even more to the list. Although 2005 was a dry summer and the fungi were subsequently slow to start, the rains came at just the right time. As a result, the foray on the 30th October 2005 was an immense success, with a resounding 55 species being discovered, of which 33 were new for the site list. Among the many species discovered were a number of “non mushroom shaped” fungi, including Small Stag's Horn and Yellow Stag's Horn Fungi *Calocera cornea* and *viscosa* respectively, Moor Club *Clavaria argillacea*, White Spindles *Clavaria vermicularis*, Stump Puffball *Lycoperdon pyriforme*, Verdigris Fungus *Stropharia aeruginosa*, Yellow Brain Fungus *Tremella mesenterica*, the easily overlooked Smooth Earthtongue *Geoglossum cookieanum* and Candlesnuff Fungus *Xylaria hypoxylon*. In fact, those who attended were highly delighted with the findings and the secretary wrote in his “Comment on the Forays” for the newsletter,

“Last Sunday 30th October was Fantastic!!! If you didn't come, you missed a rare treat! We visited the West Moors Defence Fuel Depot by special arrangement, and we were conducted around by our old friend Keith Powrie, the Conservation Officer for the Depot. What a magnificent show of fungi we saw! OK, so it was raining but only snow could put Dorset Fungus Group off such a rich bonanza. There were ceps, parasols, amethysts, *Laccarias* and other milk-caps, *Russulas*, puffballs, various other Boletes, Fly Agarics, jellies, clubs, *Trichlomas*, all in great profusion wherever we went. What made it special for me, we saw plenty of the Verdigris Agaric, looking just like a bit of weather-beaten copper, and splendid waxcaps including the Parrot Toadstool, PLUS the rarely seen

Mutinus caninus (an easy one to remember - look it up). I came away quite dazed by it all. All I can say is 'get your name down for next year because we have been invited back'."

The next foray took place on the 5th November 2006. The number of species recorded was slightly lower than the previous year. This was not surprising, considering the frosts during the previous week and the open conditions on the site. Notwithstanding, a respectable 40 species were discovered and despite the increasing size of the list, a further 15 species were added to it! (not including a *Russula* species not fully identified) Plus the couple of species that had been added prior to the DFG's visits, Horse Mushroom *Agaricus arvensis* and Common Ink-Cap *Coprinus atramentarius*, this made a grand total to date of no less than 98 species!

Our first members of the *Cortinarius* Web-Caps and *Flammulina* genera were found in the form of Pelargonium Web-Cap *Cortinarius paleacius* and Velvet Shank *Flammulina velutipes*. Another species of *Helvella*, White Saddle *Helvella crispa* and Waxcap, Blackening Wax-Cap *Hygrocybe nigrescens* were added to the list. Our first species of the difficult to separate *Russula* genus was found along with a couple of the *Postia* bracket fungi. There was also Jelly Rot *Merulius tremellosus* and an orange Slime Mould, which attacked grasses.

The next foray was held on the 4th November 2007. The list now stood at an astounding 98 species and only required another two to reach the magic century. So it was with some trepidation and high hopes that the DFG's fifth visit to the DFG commenced. With such a large number of species already, we all wondered whether any new ones could be found to reach the magic 100!

We should not have doubted the wonder of West Moors, or the virtuosity of the DFG - an incredible 63 species were discovered with an even more incredible 22 being new, bringing the Depot Fungi List to an astounding 120 species.

Well done both D.F.G.s!

Among the newcomers were two look-a-likes. The Miller *Clitopilus prunulus*, so called because it smells like meal and is edible, and growing alongside Fool's Funnel *Clitocybe rivulosa*, which albeit only occasional, is deadly poisonous. This makes eating The Miller a bit of a gamble! Among the other occasional finds were Earthy Powder-Cap *Cystoderma amianthimum*, Collared Earthstar *Geastrum triplex*, Elfin Saddle *Helvella lacunosa*, Parrot Waxcap *Hygrocybe psittacina* and Branching Oyster *Pleurotus cornucopiae*.

Other species with characteristic odours included False Deathcap *Amanita citrina* smelling like raw potatoes, Woolly Milk-Cap *Lactarius torminosus* like geraniums, Cedarwood Waxcap *Hygrocybe russocoriacea*, which smells of pencil shavings, Aniseed Funnel Cap, *Clitocybe odora* which tastes and smells of aniseed, The Miller *Clitopilus prunulus* and Blewit *Lepista nuda* both with the odour of meal.

This plethora of fungi has made the DFG West Moors one of the favourite sites for the DFG forays. With the kind permission of the new Director, Brigadier Ian W. Abbott, the Dorset Fungus Group hope to be allowed to monitor the depot yet again next year and beyond - until the list is exhausted, although with 7,000 species in the U.K. this may take some time!

The DFG like to bring new members to West Moors as a good introduction to their subject. The reason is because there is such a variety of genera and sometimes several species within those genera. Having accompanied the group for 5 years now, I have become interested and can recognise a few of the fungi myself and am able to at least put them in a genus if not the species

UPDATE:

The 2008 visit by the DFG took place on 11th October and an unbelievable four more species were identified and added to the list. They were as follows:

<i>Baeospora myosaura</i>	Fir Cone Fungus
<i>Daedaleopsis confragosa</i>	Blushing Bracket
<i>Pluteus cervinus</i>	Deer Shield
<i>Trichloma ustale</i>	Burnt Knight

**Keith Powrie
(Conservation Representative)**

Species recorded on 21st September 2003; identified by Mark Pike (DFG)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Agaricus augustus</i>	The Prince	<i>Inocybe lacera</i>	Torn Fibrecap
<i>Agaricus campestris</i>	Field Mushroom	<i>Lactarius pubescens</i>	Bearded Milk-Cap
<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	Fly Agaric	<i>Leccinum holopus</i>	Ghost Bolete (Scarce)
<i>Amanita rubescens</i>	The Blusher	<i>Leccinum scabrum</i>	Brown Birch Bolete
<i>Boletus edulis</i>	Cep or Penny Bun	<i>Leccinum versipelle</i>	Orange Birch Bolete
<i>Collybia maculata</i>	Spotted Tough-Shank	<i>Macrolepiota procera</i>	Parasol Mushroom
<i>Coprinus plicatilis</i>	Pleated Ink-Cap	<i>Paxillus involutus</i>	Brown Roll-rim
<i>Handkea utriformis</i>	Mozaic Puffball	<i>Scleroderma citrinum</i>	Common Earthball
<i>Hygrocybe conica</i>	Conical Waxcap	<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkey Tail
<i>Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca</i>	False Chanterelle		

Species recorded on 7th November 2004; identified by Mark Pike (DFG)

<i>Bovista plumbea</i>	Grey Puffball	<i>Laccaria amethystea</i>	Amethyst Deceiver
<i>Clavulina cristata</i>	Crested Coral	<i>Laccaria laccata</i>	The Deceiver
<i>Clavulina rugosa</i>	Wrinkled Club	<i>Lactarius tabidus</i>	Birch Milkcap
<i>Clavulinopsis helvola</i>	Yellow Club	<i>Lactarius torminosus</i>	Woolly Milkcap
<i>Clavulinopsis luteoalba</i>	Apricot Club	<i>Lactarius turpis</i>	Ugly Milkcap
<i>Collybia butyracea</i>	Butter Cap	<i>Lepista nuda</i>	Wood Blewit
<i>Crepidotus variabilis</i>	Variable Oysterling	<i>Lycoperdon foetidum</i>	Puffball sp.
<i>Entoloma chalybaeum</i>	Indigo Pinkgill	<i>Mucilago crustacea</i>	
var. <i>lazulinum</i>			
<i>Geoglossum cookieanum</i>	Smooth Earthtongue	<i>Mutinus caninus</i>	Dog Stinkhorn
<i>Helvella lacunosa</i>	Elfin Saddle	<i>Peziza badia</i>	Pigs Ears
<i>Hydnum repandum</i>	Hedgehog Fungus	<i>Rhizopogon luteolus</i>	Yellow False Truffle
<i>Hygrocybe coccinea</i>	Scarlet Waxcap	<i>Thelephora terrestris</i>	Earth Fan
<i>Hygrocybe virgineus</i>	Snowy Waxcap	<i>Tremella mesenterica</i>	Yellow Brain Fungus
<i>Hygrocybe pratensis</i>	Meadow Waxcap	<i>Trichloma imbricatum</i>	Scaly Knight
<i>Hygrophorus hypothejus</i>	Herald of the Winter		

Species recorded on 30th October 2005; identified by Mark Pike (DFG)

<i>Amanita citrina</i>	False Deathcap	<i>Hebeloma crustuliniforme</i>	Poison Pie
<i>Armillaria mellea</i>	Honey Fungus	<i>Hygrocybe psittacina</i>	Parrot Waxcap
<i>Boletus badius</i>	Bay Bolete	<i>Hygrocybe russocoriacea</i>	Cedarwood Waxcap
<i>Boletus chrysenteron</i>	Red Cracked Bolete	<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft
<i>Calocera cornea</i>	Small Stagshorn	<i>Lactarius deliciosus</i>	Saffron Milkcap
<i>Calocera viscosa</i>	Yellow Stagshorn	<i>Lactarius quietus</i>	Oak Milkcap
<i>Clavaria argillacea</i>	Moor Club	<i>Lactarius vietus</i>	Grey Milkcap
<i>Clavaria vermicularis</i>	White Spindles	<i>Macrolepiota rhacodes</i>	Shaggy Parasol
<i>Clitocybe flaccida</i>	Tawny Funnel Cap	<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i>	Common Puffball
<i>Clitocybe infundibuliformis</i>	Common Funnel Cap	<i>Lycoperdon pyriforme</i>	Stump Puffball
<i>Clitocybe nebularis</i>	Clouded Funnel	<i>Lycophyllum decastes</i>	Clustered Domecap
<i>Coprinus comatus</i>	Lawyer's Wig	<i>Stropharia aeruginosa</i>	Verdigris Roundhead
<i>Coprinus disseminatus</i>	Fairies' Bonnets	<i>Suillus bovinus</i>	Bovine Bolete
<i>Coprinus micaceus</i>	Glistening Inkcap	<i>Suillus luteus</i>	Slippery Jack
<i>Crepidotus mollis</i>	Peeling Oyster	<i>Tricholoma fulvum</i>	Birch Knight
<i>Cystoderma amianthinum</i>	Earthy Powdercap	<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>	Candlesnuff Fungus
<i>Gymnopilus penetrans</i>	Common Rustgill		

Species recorded on 5th November 2006; identified by Mark Pike (DFG)

<i>Amanita fulva</i>	Tawny Grisette	<i>Lactarius rufus</i>	Rufous Milkcap
<i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>	Smoky Bracket	<i>Merulius tremellosus</i>	Jelly Rot
<i>Clitocybe odora</i>	Aniseed Funnel	<i>Piptoporus betulinus</i>	Birch Polypore
<i>Collybia dryophila</i>	Russet Toughshank	<i>Postia caesia</i>	Conifer Blueing Bracket
<i>Cortinarius paleacius</i>	Pelargonium Webcap	<i>Postia stiptica</i>	Bitter Bracket
<i>Flammulina velutipes</i>	Velvet Shank	<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Curtain Crust
<i>Helvella crispa</i>	White Saddle	<i>Trichomolopsis rutilans</i>	Plums and Custard
<i>Hygrocybe nigrescens</i>	Blackening Waxcap		

Species recorded on 4th November 2007; identified by Mark Pike (DFG)

<i>Aleuria aurantia</i>	Orange Peel Fungus	<i>Mycena epipterygia</i>	Yellow Bonnet
<i>Chlorosplenium aeruginascens</i>	Green Elfcap	<i>Mycena polygramma</i>	Grooved Bonnet
<i>Claviceps purpurea</i>	Ergot	<i>Mycena pura</i>	Lilac Bonnet
<i>Clitocybe rivulosa</i>	Fool's Funnel	<i>Nectria cinnabarina</i>	Coral Spot
<i>Clitopilus prunulus</i>	The Miller	<i>Pleurotus cornucopiae</i>	Branching Oyster
<i>Daedalea quercina</i>	Maze Gill	<i>Russula claroflava</i>	Yellow Swamp Brittlegill
<i>Entoloma serrulatum</i>	Blue-edged Pinkgill	<i>Russula emetica</i>	The Sickener
<i>Geastrum triplex</i>	Collared Earthstar	<i>Russula nigricans</i>	Blackening Brittlegill
<i>Lactarius cimicarius</i>	Watery Milkcap	<i>Russula ochroleuca</i>	Ochre Brittlegill
<i>Lycoperdon echinatum</i>	Spiny Puffball	<i>Russula sardonia</i>	Primrose Brittlegill
<i>Melanoleuca poliioleuca</i>	Cavalier	<i>Tubaria furfuracea</i>	Scurfy Twiglet

Dorset Plant Galls

I first became interested in plant galls in the early 1980s when a group of Yorkshire Naturalists' Union members were involved with forming the British Plant Gall Society (BPGS). Since that time, I have casually recorded plant galls sending small numbers of records each year to local record centres.

What is a gall?

A gall is an abnormal growth produced by a plant or other host under the influence of another organism. It involves enlargement and/or proliferation of host cells, and provides both shelter and food or nutrients for the invading organism. (From *British Plant Galls* by Margaret Redfern and Peter Shirley). Some well-known types of gall are Oak apples, Robin's Pincushions and Witches' Brooms.

What organisms cause galls?

Both fungi, particularly rusts and smuts, or invertebrates can cause galls. An example of a fungal gall is illustrated above. Prominent among the invertebrate gall causers are aphids, mites, psyllids, gall-midges (Cecidomyiidae), gall-flies (Tephritidae), gall-wasps (Cynipidae) and sawflies, but a wide range of other invertebrates are included. Viruses, bacteria and phytoplasmas can also cause galls.

How do I start to identify plant galls?

The best book at the moment is *British Plant Galls* (Margaret Redfern and Peter Shirley) published in the AIDGAP series by the Field Studies Council at £18. It is useful to acquire some small brown envelopes e.g. old-fashioned wage envelopes. The book is not easy to use in the field as it is quite large. A sample in an envelope with a good, say, eight-figure grid reference written on it, together with location and date, allows the sample to be verified later. Although, I should caution you to do the identification that day as many woody plant leaves deteriorate quickly.

The first task is to identify the host plant. One then decides whether the gall is fungal or from an invertebrate. Galls may originate on a flower, stem, root or leaf. A quick look at the key enables one to eliminate those on the 'wrong' plant part. It is then possible to work down the key and determine the species.

Initially, woody plants seem to be the best way of finding plant galls, with oak and willow having many species. The galls can be highly coloured swellings on the leaf or stem.

The oak gall wasps have a life cycle involving a fixed alternation between two different generations each year. One generation is the sexual generation, which produces male and female gall wasps, while the agamic generation produces only females. One of the easier galls to observe in both generations is *Neuroterus quercusbaccarum*. The

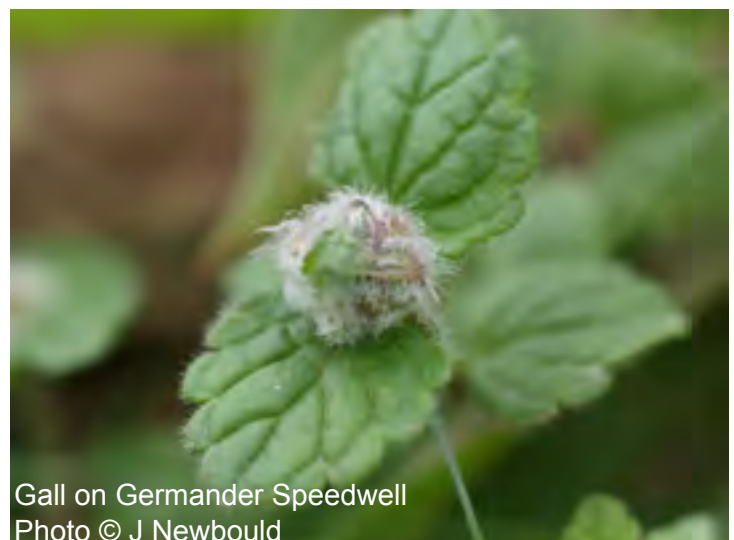
spring generation, the sexual generation, forms currant-like galls on either the catkins or leaves of oak and both male and female gall wasps emerge from these galls. The females of this generation lay eggs in oak leaves which induce the formation of the flat, disk-like spangle galls on the under surface of the leaf later in the summer. The adults which emerge from the larvae from this generation are all females and over winter in the leaf litter once the leaves have fallen in autumn.



Spangle gall
Photo © J Newbould

When recording the oak gall wasps for the BPGS we are indicating the generation e.g. the spring generation *Neuroterus quercusbaccarum* (Sx) is the sexual generation while the summer gall, the disk, is *N. quercusbaccarum* (Ag). This is indicated in the Field Studies Council Key for *N. quercusbaccarum* by ♀♂ for the sexual (p. 416) and *N. quercusbaccarum* ♀♀ for the agamic (p. 412).

Other galls are on herbaceous plants e.g. Stinging Nettle, Cleavers or Germander Speedwell. Ferns e.g. Bracken may have up to four species of gall and grasses may be affected. Such galls seem harder to find. Despite there being thousands of beds of nettle across Dorset, I had only five records of *Dasineura urticae* in 2008 out of five potential species available. I searched high and low for the gall on Common Cat's-ear and on Tormentil with no success.



Gall on Germander Speedwell
Photo © J Newbould

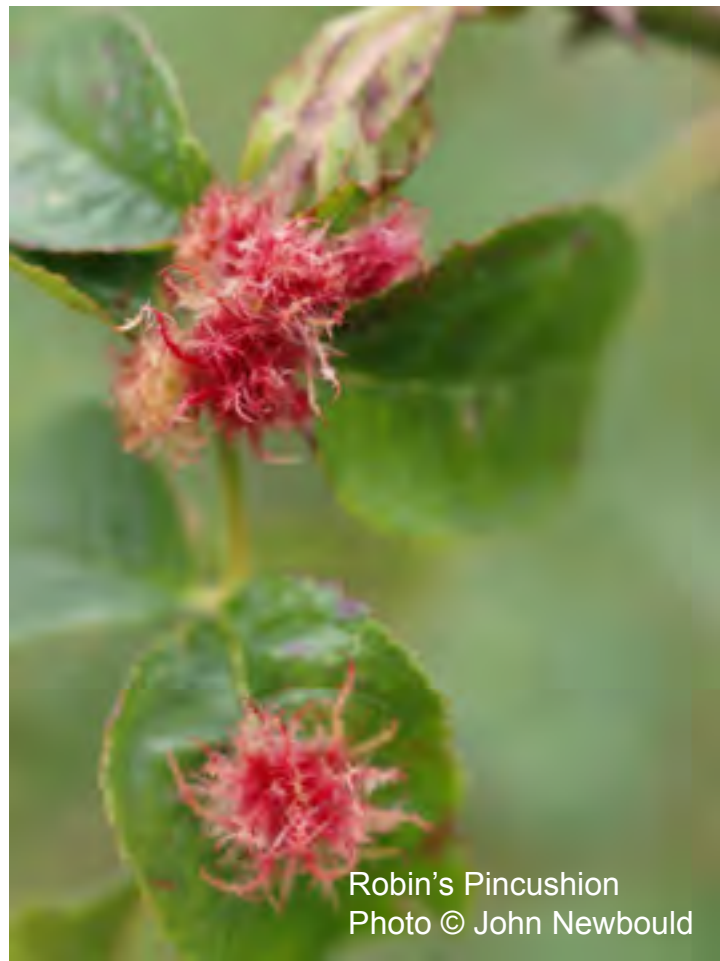
During the summer of 2008 I had the opportunity of working with Bryan Edwards on a hedgerow survey around Powerstock and Kingcombe where the old hedges and trees provided a rich source of material. In addition, by contrast, the Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society meetings seemed to concentrate on the Dorset heathlands providing opportunities for galls in willow carr and acid woodland. The result has been 270 records of seventy-three plant galls on forty-six host plants. Our three best records were the gall *Hexomyza simpliciodes* on Grey Willow *Salix cinerea*. This distinctive gall is described by Redfern as rare but was found on Povington Heath, Ware Cliff and Stonebarrow. Bryan Edwards found the rare galls *Myopties inulaedyssentericae* on Common Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica* and the gall *Jaapiella genisticola* on Dyer's Greenweed *Genista tinctoria*, both near Toller Porcorum.

John Newbould

Tom Higginbottom

(Chairman British Plant Gall Society)

Postscript: Collins published "Plant Galls" by Margaret Redfern in the New Naturalist library series in April 2011. In addition, the AIDGAP key to identification of plant galls has been updated with changes in nomenclature.



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The Medicinal Leech Hirudo medicinalis is a nationally rare species and only known from seven widely dispersed counties in the British Isles, Dorset being one of them. It is protected by numerous designations and is listed in Appendix III of the Bern Convention; Appendix II of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and Annex V of the Habitats Directive; it is listed as Vulnerable by the International Union of Conservation for Nature (IUCN); as rare on the GB Red List and included on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Since 1995, until recently, the species had a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (Biodiversity 1995). The discovery of an additional site for the species in Dorset is worthy of note. Since 1998 this species has been recorded from no more than four sites in Dorset, all in Purbeck (Dorset Environmental Record Centre). This new location is also in Purbeck and similar to certainly three of the recorded sites, being associated with flooded disused ball clay pit workings. The new location at Squirrel Cottage Lake (SY98 905/854) is a shallow four sided one hectare lake, including an island that was created during the early 1990s and flooded by 1994 as part of a heathland restoration programme in an area of disused ball clay working by Imerys Minerals Ltd.

How the species came to be discovered in this lake may be of interest. Since 2003 one of the authors (BPP) has been observing the dragonfly fauna of the lake (Pickess 2009). On 16th July, 2009 both authors were surveying the lake population of dragonflies, each taking two of the four sides which met at the south-west corner of the lake. One of us (DGC) undertook the survey by slowly wading around the western edge of the lake, usually in about 30 cm of water. DGC wore trainers without socks and with light loose trousers which terminated at the knee; the lower leg and ankle were, therefore, exposed in the water. At around 11.30 at the south-west corner of the lake standing in ca. 25 cm water whilst the survey was being finalized DGC was aware of tickling around both ankles. This tickling lasted for about 15 minutes during which time DGC was in discussion with BPP and therefore stationary, standing in the water. The irritation was insufficient to consider evasive action. After leaving the lake and returning to the vehicle DGC was aware of blood on his trousers but neither BPP nor DGC gave any further thought to the matter; however, some 45 minutes after leaving the lake, at the home of BPP, DGC cleaned his legs and was surprised to find that blood was flowing strongly from three wounds on his right leg and one on his left leg. The flowing of the blood could not be staunched without applying a great deal of pressure. The wounds were cleaned and plasters placed over them.

Arriving home in Haywards Heath, West Sussex at around 17.00, DGC changed shoes and was surprised to find that the right shoe contained a considerable quantity of blood. He then bathed and cleaned the wounds which were still oozing small quantities of blood. Indeed what had basically sealed the wounds and stopped the blood flow was a thin layer of toilet tissue that had covered the wounds. DGC thoroughly cleaned and examined the wounds and was surprised to find on close examination the 'Y' shaped bite marks (Plates 1 & 2). In total there were eight bites on his right leg and one on his left leg. The bite on his left leg was still oozing blood at 20.00, some 9 hours after being bitten. After a little research on the internet, these 'Y' shaped bites and continuous oozing blood could only lead to one conclusion; they had been caused by feeding Medicinal Leeches.

The presence of Medicinal Leech at this water body raises a number of questions; most for the present cannot be answered. How did the leech arrive here? The lake has no fish, so what are its hosts? What makes this a suitable water body for the species? The few recent records of the species would suggest that there might be an association in Purbeck with disused ball clay workings? As its discovery at Squirrel Cottage Lake was by accident, how many other sites hold this creature and could Purbeck hold a nationally important population?

Acknowledgements

We would to thank Carolyn Steele of the Dorset Environmental Record Centre for providing the locations of the post 1990 records for the species. We would like to thank Will Bond of Holme Estates for allowing access to Squirrel Cottage Lake.

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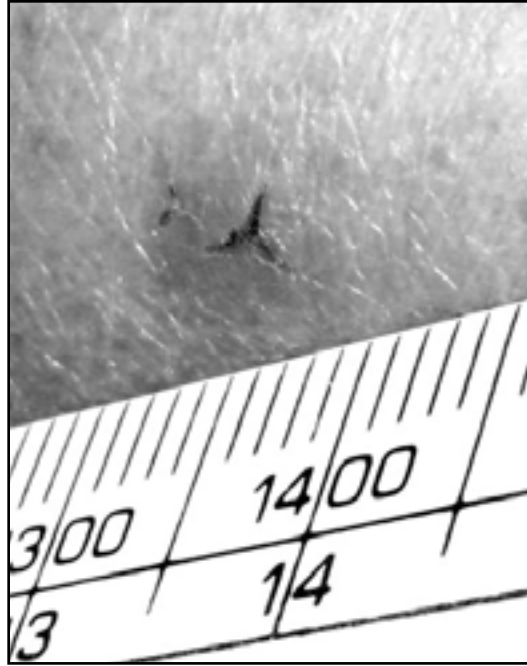


Plate 1: Typical 'Y' shaped bite of *Hirudo medicinalis* on left leg of D. G. Chelmick
Photo © Bryan Pickess



Plate 2: Bites of *Hirudo medicinalis* on right leg of D. G. Chelmick (note still oozing blood 6 hours after bite)
Photo © Bryan Pickess

Recording Dorset's Birds

Dorset's birdlife was for a long time recorded in the Transactions of the Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society (DNH&AS). In 1902, volume 23 reported on the death of the Rev J.C. Mansel-Pleydell, the author of the first book dedicated to the birds of the county. "The Birds of Dorsetshire: a contribution to the natural history of the county" was published in 1887.

Over the years, various articles have appeared in the Transactions updating the county bird list including those by Rev F.L. Blathway ("A Revised List of the Birds of Dorset", 1933), G.W.H. Moule ("A Revised List of the Birds of Dorset up to 1962") and J.V. Boys "Checklist of the Birds of Dorset 1972".

In 1983, "The Birds of Dorset" by Col. E.D.V. Prendergast and J.V. Boys brought these works up to date. This remained the standard county avifauna until "The Birds of Dorset" by George Green was published by Christopher Helm in 2004, with financial assistance from the Dorset Bird Club (DBC).

In 1987, the 'New' Dorset Bird Club was formed out of the DNH&AS and took over the responsibility of producing Dorset's annual bird report (their first was the 1986 report). At this time, all records were submitted directly to the DBC, and through DERC, on pieces of paper which were then sorted into species and the report written. As the volume of records increased, the task of compiling the bird report grew. Today a team of sub-editors write sections of the report under the watchful eye of the bird report editor.

By 2000, a decision was made within the DBC to set up an electronic database to enable the data to be used for practical purposes and to aid the writing of the annual report. With a grant from English Nature to set up the database, the DBC, working closely with DERC, completed the inputting of the records for 2000. The database is now maintained to log records from individual contributors and enables more effective sorting of the data (up to 30,000 individual records are now logged annually). In addition to these records, reports from a number of individual sites are maintained in report form in the DBC archives but do not form part of the database.

Once the annual report has been produced, the dataset is sent to DERC and held on their system. This data is available, through DERC, to conservationists, planners and consultants to ensure that issues affecting Dorset's birdlife are taken into account.

Once the database was up and running, the task of tackling the old paper records began. The project was kick-started with funding from the National Biodiversity Network, with some important species selected for inputting including Bittern, Nightjar and Turtle Dove. With additional funding from The Dorset Wildlife Trust and the DBC, March 2007 saw the start of a long term project to input the remaining paper records into the database.

The initial aim is to input all of the 'red' and 'amber' species (those with the highest conservation concern) into the database. To date (March 2010) a total of 92 species (63,000 records) have been completed whilst another 30 are with a team of volunteers who are gradually working through them. The archive project is ongoing and the DBC would welcome additional help to input these records. Please contact Neil Gartshore on 01929 552560 or email neil@onaga54.freeserve.co.uk if you would like further details.

If you have any current bird records to submit please contact the County Bird Recorder. The option to use an Excel spreadsheet is available on which to keep your records and it can be directly uploaded by the CBR into the database.

Neil Gartshore
County Bird Recorder
Kevin Lane, 42 Twin Oaks Close, Broadstone, BH18 8JF
dorsetbirdclub@hotmail.com

It is widely accepted that fragmentation, loss of habitat and lack of management have all contributed to a decline in vascular plant species associated with Dorset's heathlands over the last 50 years (Byfield & Pearman, 1994). The lack of grazing management is a particular problem, and many species that have declined significantly, or have become extinct, in the county are still widely distributed on the grazed lawns, heaths, mires and pasture woodlands within the New Forest (Byfield & Pearman, 1994).

The evidence for bryophytes is less well documented, although species such as *Dicranum spurium* and *Hypnum imponens* are much more frequent in the grazed heaths of the New Forest than in Dorset, and both are currently restricted to just one site. Another species that has declined due to a decline in heathland and common grazing is *Splachnum ampullaceum*.

Splachnum ampullaceum is a member of the Splachnaceae, an unusual family of highly specialized mosses that grow on dung, bones or animal carcasses. To ensure dispersal to the correct substratum the capsules are large, brightly coloured and produce an odour that mimics animal dung to attract flies, which in turn distribute the sticky spores. *S. ampullaceum* is restricted to dung and unlike other members of the family is largely a lowland species. It grows on well-decayed cattle and horse dung in wet habitats, especially in acid mires.

In Dorset *S. ampullaceum* has always been a rare species with the following records:

- SY78 Moreton Heath, *JW Barrett* 1881
- SY39 Champernhayes Marsh, *G Lister* 1900
- SU00 Uddens Heath, *HW Monkton* 1922
- SY98 Hartland Moor, *SB Chapman* 1965

With no recent record the species was thought to be extinct in the county.

It has suffered a similar decline throughout lowland England (Porley & Hodgetts 2005, Hill *et al*, 1994):

County	Last date
Berkshire	1860
Kent	<1950
Norfolk	1973
Suffolk	1957
Surrey	1899
Sussex	<1950

As mentioned above it is still widespread in the New Forest and there are recent records from grazed common land on Bodmin Moor and Dartmoor in the south-west.

While looking for bryophytes on Morden Bog NNR in 2005 AJP Branson and B Edwards discovered a single small, sterile patch on cattle dung by a ditch. Despite further visits no more could be located. In 2009 John Argent found three patches in a hollow at the edge of the bog, some of which had immature capsules.

On the strength of this B Edwards visited the site and found it in 5 areas all within a 200 metre radius of the 2005 site. Capsules were abundant on several patches. It is found in wet heath associated with *Erica tetralix*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Sphagnum compactum* and *Trichophorum cespitosum*, and referable to the M16 *Erica tetralix-Sphagnum compactum* wet heath within the NVC. Locally it may be found in wetter sites with *Eleocharis multicaulis*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Sphagnum auriculatum*, *S. cuspidatum* and *S. tenellum*, and capsules seem to be more abundant in these situations. Sterile material is easily overlooked and other species can occur on decaying dung including *Campylopus introflexus*, *C. pyriformis* and *Funaria hygrometrica*, although these are largely confined to drier sites.

Cattle grazing was re-introduced to Morden Bog in 1995. The moss is only usually capable of short distance dispersal and the nearest site is some 30 km to the east, therefore its appearance here is of great interest, and clearly shows the benefits of grazing management and the ability of specialised species to colonise given the right conditions.

The story of this species is similar to that of the coprophilous Nail Fungus *Poronia punctata* which is now established on three area of heathland since the re-introduction of pony grazing. *Splachnum ampullaceum* should be looked for in other sites where cattle grazing has been re-instated on wet heaths and valley mires, especially on the former site at Hartland Moor.

Bryan Edwards

References:

Byfield, AJ & Pearman, DA 1994 *Dorset's disappearing heathland flora*. Plantlife and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Hill, MO, Preston, CD & Smith, AJE 1994 *Atlas of the Bryophytes and Britain and Ireland*. Vol 3: Mosses (Diplolepidae). Harley Books, Colchester.

Porley, RD & Hodgetts, HG 2005 *Mosses & Liverworts*. The New Naturalists Library. Harper Collins, London.

Sending in your records

Dorset Environmental Records Centre depends on the goodwill of local recorders to continue to send in their records, but we also welcome new recorders. If you would like to contribute, please send your records between the end of the recording season and January 31st of the following year. Once received, all the data is grouped and passed on to local experts for verification. When it comes back in to DERC the data can be prepared for importing into our database systems.

The results of this continuous round of survey, verification and data collation allow us to produce publications such as Recording Dorset. It also provides us with a wealth of records to use for other projects, often working in conjunction with the recording groups and conservation organisations established in Dorset.

If you would like to contribute records or would like to submit an article to a future edition of Recording Dorset, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

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