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A big thank you to **Trevor James** and **Rev Tom Gladwin** for an enormous recording effort for the County over many years. Trevor is taking a step back but still involved with the flora. He remains the recorder for Beetles.

Many thanks to our new recorders for taking on groups this past year. Drs **Ian Denholm** and **Alla Mashanova** will be managing the flora, **David Willis** the arachnids and **Stephen Lings** the bees, wasps, millipedes and centipedes. There are still a number of vacancies for particular groups. If anyone has some expertise/interest in any of the groups below or any groups not currently covered within Hertfordshire, please contact the Chair of the Biological Recorders, Dr Ronni Edmonds-Brown, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, AL10 9AB Email: v.r.edmonds-brown@herts.ac.uk to discuss. These gaps include both terrestrial and aquatic molluscs and the Neuroptera (lacewings and allies).

Recorders' reports

***Beetles of Hertfordshire – corrections and amendments, with an update on additional species, and other important new records* Trevor J. James**

The text of the *Beetles of Hertfordshire* (James, 2018) was completed in early 2018 and the book published in late July, with launch events at the Royal Entomological Society HQ at Chiswell Green near St Albans and at the RSPB centre at Rye Meads. For all the work that went into this, I would like to extend my thanks to everyone involved, but in particular Jack Fearnside and his team for the design and publication of the book, and David Utting for his background organisation and efficiency. We must also thank the Royal Entomological Society for generously supporting the publication of the book itself.

Inevitably there were a few errors in the production, including a faulty Contents page. These were corrected with the second printing, which became necessary by the middle of August! Since publication, however, a number of other factual errors, alongside a welter of new information have come to light, and so this report

is effectively an update of the book.

One important source of new County records since the date of publication has been an on-going study of tree canopy samples from various woods collected by Dr Ken Smith between 2008-2016. These were initially collected to examine food availability for woodland birds, but the numbers of beetles involved have been substantial, and identifications have thrown much light on specific groups, as well as finding 'new' species for Hertfordshire. It will be seen that a number of these (and other) records were 'bred from samples', meaning that adult beetles were captured and identified on emergence from samples of dead wood kept over periods of time.

Another major source of 'new' records has been an increase in beetle specimens from light traps, mainly run for moths, especially by Simon Knott at Bengoe. These demonstrate not only the richness of this

particular locality, but also that many species are far more mobile than we might think. Unfortunately, the work involved in identifying catch samples means that by no means enough material from these potentially valuable sources has been worked on from across the County. New species are also the result of continued, and increasing, movement of species into the UK as a whole and to Hertfordshire in particular, especially in the context of climate change.

My own fieldwork during 2018 has been somewhat curtailed by personal circumstances, but a number of visits to different areas were made, and provided important new records. Scales Park, in north-east Herts. was visited several times to add to our knowledge of this rich site. Further work was also carried out at Wilstone Reservoir, King's Meads, Hexton Chalk Pit, Thorley Wash, Weston Hills, Jersey Farm at Sandridge, Benington and Sherrards Park Wood, among others, the last having been the venue for other important finds by Dan Asaw.

Finally, I have received a large amount of new data from Dr Andy Foster of Dorset, who was commissioned by the National Trust to carry out detailed surveys of the Ashridge Estate in 2017-2018, involving extensive pitfall and vane-trapping as well as other techniques. These have produced a number of new records, including no fewer than 19 new species to the County list, despite the wealth of previous recording for the area. This has necessitated a review (see below) of the Saproxyllic Quality Assessment and Index of Ecological Continuity scores for this locality that are published in the book. His data cover not only the core woodlands around Aldbury and Northchurch Commons, but also Berkhamsted Common (with Frithsden Beeches), Hudnall Common and Ashridge Park/Prince's Riding.

On a sadder note, Dave Hodges, who provided most of the 'vignette' photos of beetles used in the book, died from cancer just before the book was published. My predecessor as County Beetle Recorder and long-time friend and mentor, Bryan Sage, also died at the end of 2018, not long after having lost his wife. An obituary is included elsewhere in this journal. At least Bryan was present at the Royal Entomological Society launch event, where I was able to present him with his dedicated copy.

Revision of the Saproxyllic Quality Index and Index of Ecological Continuity in Herts.

Chapter 3 in James (2018) has a section concerning the dead wood habitat in woodlands and wood-pastures. It includes two tables which list the highest-scoring localities in the County for the specialist beetles of this habitat (p. 19).

The extensive and intensive sampling and survey work commissioned by the National Trust at Ashridge

during 2017-2018, and carried out by Andy Foster, has substantially enhanced our knowledge of the insects of these woodlands, especially saproxyllic species. Not only have several new saproxyllic species been found, some of which are nationally rare, but also we have re-confirmations of older records of others. This has necessitated a re-evaluation of the scores for the Ashridge Estate at least (comprising Aldbury, Berkhamsted and Northchurch Commons, along with Ashridge Park and adjoining woodlands, and Frithsden Beeches). The assessment leaves out Hudnall



Old beeches on Northchurch-Aldbury Commons boundary, Ashridge 20.10.2012. Photo T.James.

Common, which lies separate from the rest (and is mostly in vice-county 24 [Herts]), although this, also, has been shown to have some important species.

The effect of this re-evaluation has been to raise the Saproxyllic Quality Index score for Ashridge significantly from 409.1 to 567.5; while the revised Index of Ecology Continuity score is now 103.

It is immediately apparent from these amended scores that the assessment in James (2018) greatly under-states the importance of Ashridge for its dead-wood specialist beetle community. The SQI score now ranks it as of International Importance, and of higher status than Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire; while the IEC score places it on a par with Esher Commons in Surrey. It is by far the highest scoring site in Hertfordshire for its ecological continuity, and second only to the Broxbourne Woods complex for its 'saproxyllic quality' (rarity of species). Even then, however, it needs to be stressed that this assessment is only for the Hertfordshire sector of Ashridge. Including species communities in the Buckinghamshire sector would further increase these scores considerably. A report is being submitted to the National Trust by Andy Foster detailing these findings.

It should also be noted that canopy dead-wood sampling carried out at several other sites in the

County by Ken Smith between 2008-2016, will alter their index scores once the material collected has been fully determined. A fuller review of the County's saproxylic sites will be needed in due course.

New species to the Hertfordshire list

The *Beetles of Hertfordshire* listed 2,483 species that had been reliably recorded from the County up to the end of 2017. There were a number of other species for which old records needed confirmation. During the last year, the product of intensive moth-trap by-catch records, especially from Bengoe and intensive vane-trapping and pitfall-trapping undertaken over 2017-2018 at the Ashridge Estate, has been to substantially increase the County list, particularly with saproxylic species that must previously have gone unrecorded. A number of other species are known or likely to be incomers, some recently arrived in Britain. In the meantime, one species listed in James (2018) has had to be withdrawn from the current checklist, although re-examination of this record has produced another new species to the County. The checklist therefore now stands at 2,514 species, with the removal of one and the addition of 32 new species, listed below. This is an unprecedented increase in the County list in such a short time.

Beetles of Hertfordshire – corrections and updates to species accounts

As well as records of all confirmed additions to the County list, additional records of rare or scarce species are detailed below. A number of corrections to the text of the book and revisions of County status are also highlighted.

The taxonomy of species names used here now adopts those proposed in the third edition of the *Checklist of beetles of the British Isles* by Andrew Duff (Duff, 2018), which came out shortly after the publication of *Beetles of Hertfordshire* (James, 2018). I have shown names as used in the latter in square brackets after the current name, where they differ. However, for the sake of ease of cross-reference with my book, I have not adopted changes in the family order or revised family names as proposed by Duff, which are substantial for some groups. As in previous reports, species are given in alphabetical order within families, for convenience.

Abbreviations and symbols used follow the practice I have followed in previous reports:

* : denotes a new species to the County list.

: denotes a correction to the text of *Beetles of Hertfordshire*.

RDB1: species regarded as Red Data Book 1 (Endangered), according to the 1992 criteria for UK rarity of species.

RDB2: species regarded as Red Data Book 2 (Vulnerable), according to the 1992 criteria.

RDB3: species regarded as Red Data Book 3 (Nationally Rare) according to the 1992 criteria.

RDBI: species regarded as of Red Data Book status in the UK, but with too few records to be certain which category, according to the 1992 criteria.

NS: species regarded as 'Nationally Scarce' according to recent national Species Status Reviews.

Na: species considered to be 'Nationally Notable (A)' (found in fewer than 30 10km squares in the UK), according to the 1992 criteria.

Nb/N: species regarded as 'Nationally Notable (B)' (found in 30-100 10km squares) or 'Notable' according to the 1992 criteria.

HR: species considered to be 'Herts Rare' (*i.e.* found in five or fewer localities in the County).

Recorders names are given in full, except for my own records (denoted by 'T.J.').

Tetrads are indicated after locality details, using a standard alphanumeric format, 10km first, followed by the tetrad letter, according to the 'DINTY' notation (James, 2018: 7).

Halipilidae (Crawling Water-beetles)

Peltodytes caesus (Duftschmid). **NS.** A specimen of this was found in wet mud by a reed-swamp pool at Wilstone Reservoir (91/B), 11/8/2018 *D.Asaw*. This is the fifth recent locality, and the first record from the Tring area, indicating good water quality.

Dytiscidae (Diving Beetles)

Liopterus haemorrhoidalis (Fabricius). A rather local water beetle; two were attracted to a mercury-vapour moth trap at Bengoe (31/B), 22/7/2017 *S.Knott* (det. T.J.), a record that was omitted from James (2018). It was again attracted to a trap there on 15/7/2018 *S.K.* (det. T.J.).

Carabidae (Ground Beetles)

Agonum (Olisares) viduum (Panzer) [= *A. (Agonum) viduum*]. This has also now been found at the pond in Berrygrove Wood, Aldenham (19/J), 19/8/2018 *T.J.*, which confirms its widespread occurrence in south-west Herts., and means it is not 'Herts Rare', as given in James (2018).

* *Amara (Bradytus) consularis* (Duftschmid). **NS.** Alongside *Amara majuscula* (see below), a single example of this mainly coastal species was picked up from beside a mercury-vapour moth trap at Ashwell Quarry N.R. (23/P), 26/7/2018 *C.M.James* (det. T.J.). It is characteristic of dry, often sandy or chalky ground. Whether it has also expanded alongside its non-native cousin is a moot point, but it is known to be widespread along the coast in Norfolk.

* *Amara (Bradytus) majuscula* (Chaudoir). A specimen of this recent arrival in Britain from Europe was found at a mercury-vapour moth trap at Ashwell Quarry (23/P), 26/7/2018 *C.M.James* (det. T.J.). Two further specimens were then attracted to a similar trap at Bengoe (31/B), 3/8/2018, 21/8/2018 *S.Knott* (det. T.J.). The species has expanded from Asia across to Britain since 1900, first being found in Norfolk in 2016, and is characteristic of open, dry habitats (*Hodge et al.*, 2016). It is likely to become frequent in such places.

Bembidion (Bembidion) quadripustulatum Audinet-Serville. **NS.** Its 'possible loss' as a Herts. species (*James*, 2018) has turned out not to be the case. One was found on mud in the reed swamp at Wilstone Reservoir (91/B), 11/8/2018 *T.J.* This is the first record from the Tring area since before 1900, and the first in the County since 1943.

Bradycellus verbasci (Duftschmid). Not a rare species, but a mass emergence of 'thousands' was noted at mercury-vapour moth traps in the Bengoe-Ware area (31/B, G, S), 20/8/2018 *S.Knott/E. Goodyear/A.Wood*. It is not known whether this phenomenon was more widespread.

Carabus (Mesocarabus) problematicus Herbst. A single specimen of this was found at Little Molewood, Bengoe (31/B), 20/4/2018 *S.Knott* (conf. T.J.). It represents a considerable eastern extension to its known range in the County, and reinforces that care needs to be taken when identifying small 'violet ground beetles' elsewhere, perhaps especially on drier, poorer soils.

Chlaenius nigricornis (Fabricius). **HR.** This species of long-established wetlands was found on mud in the reed swamp at Wilstone Reservoir (91/B), 11/8/2018 *J.Gray* (det. T.J.). This is the second recent record in the County, and the first from the Tring area.

Cicindela campestris L. (**Green Tiger Beetle**). **HR.** A record of a mating pair of these at Broxbourne Wood (30/I), 16/5/2002 *P.J.Attewell* has surfaced, which brings forward the last date at this locality by three years. It remains to be seen if it has survived the period of overgrowth of the main clearings.

Dromius agilis (Fabricius). **HR.** One was caught in a vane trap at Sherrards Park Wood (21/H), 26/5/2018 *D.Asaw*. This is only the third (or fourth?) recent record for the County.

Nebria (Nebria) salina Fairmaire & Laboulbène. **HR.** A single specimen of this was found in an underground pitfall trap at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*. This is only the second properly confirmed record of this in the County, in typical, acidic, heathy woodland habitat.

Notiophilus quadripunctatus Dejean. **NS.** One was caught in a vane trap at Aldbury Common (91/Q),

June-July 2017 *A.P.Foster*. It is evidently thinly scattered across the County on poor soils.

Patrobus atrorufus (Strøm). Two were recorded at Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), 5/4/2018 *D.Asaw*. This is the ninth recent tetrad record, but the first since 2006 for this possibly declining species of damp habitats.

Pterostichus (Pseudomaseus) gracilis (Dejean). **NS.** A single specimen of this scarce species of long-established wetlands was found at King's Meads (31/L), 16/10/2018 *S.Knott* (det. T.J.). This is only its second recent record, and its only other recent site, Ridlins Mire at Stevenage, has been seriously degraded since it was found there.

Pterostichus (Pseudomaseus) rhaeticus Heer. **HR?** This look-alike of the widespread *P. (P.) nigrita* (Paykull) was identified by dissection from the reed swamp at Wilstone Reservoir (91/B), 11/8/2018 *D.Asaw*. Its commoner cousin has already been confirmed from the site, and so this is one of the few localities where both occur together.

Syntomus obscuroguttatus (Duftschmid). Adding to information about the spread of this relative newcomer to Herts., this was found in rough grassland by woodland at Jersey Farm open space, Sandridge (10/U), 22/7/2018 *T.J.*

Hydrophilidae (Water Scavenger-beetles and allies)

Berosus (Berosus) affinis Brullé **HR.** A single specimen of this local species of good quality wetlands was attracted to a mercury-vapour moth trap at Little Molewood, Bengoe (31/B), 3/8/2018 *S.Knott* (det. T.J.). This is the third recent record. It presumably derived from the nearby Beane valley wetlands.

Cercyon (Dicyrtocercyon) ustulatus (Preyssler). **HR.** A species of marsh litter, one was attracted to a mercury-vapour moth trap at Little Molewood, Bengoe (31/B), 13/8/2018 *S.Knott* (det. T.J.). This is only the fourth recent locality, and, again, probably came from the nearby Beane valley.

Helochaeres punctatus Sharp. **NS.** One specimen was found in the reed swamp at Wilstone Reservoir (91/B), 11/8/2018 *T.J.*, its first occurrence in this part of Herts.

Histeridae (Clown Beetles)

* *Aeletes atomarius* (Aubé). **NS.** This scarce species is found in the tunnels and associated frass of wood-boring beetles in old trees. It was found in a decaying beech at Aldbury Common (91/R), June 2017; and again at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Dendrophilus punctatus (Herbst). **HR.** As expected (*James*, 2018), this has also now been found in oak and beech at Aldbury Common (91/Q) and in oak at Northchurch Common (91/Q), June-July 2017; with

further records from beech at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Kissister minimus (Laporte). **HR?** Having first been found in the County in 2007, this shows signs of spreading, and is now doubtfully 'Herts Rare'. It appeared in several places in damp vegetation at Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), 10/10/2018 *T.J.* Interestingly, there were no records from Ashridge, despite intensive survey work there in 2017-2018.

Margarinotus (Ptomister) merdarius (Hoffmann). **HR?** Another record of this was from a dead beech tree at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*. It remains uncommon.

Ptiliidae (Feather-wing Beetles)

These minute insects are grossly under-recorded in the County, so it is very useful to have a series of new records from studies at Ashridge.

Ptenidium (Gressnerium) gressneri Erichson. **N.** This generally scarce species of decaying trees has now also been found in wood mould at Thunderdell Wood (91/W), 22/5/2017; on birch at Berkhamsted Common (91/V), May-June 2018; on beech at Frithsden Beeches (91/V), May-June 2018; on ash at Hudnall Common (01/B) (v.c.24 [Herts.]); on willow at Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), June 2018; and on birch, beech and oak at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/V, W), several dates in May-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*. These comprise the second and third localities for the County, but it is evidently frequent in the area.

Ptenidium (Ptenidium) formicetorum Kraatz. To add to its single previous record for Herts., this has now been found in a vane trap on beech at Frithsden Beeches (91/V), May 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Pteryx suturalis (Heer). This was found in a vane trap in a hollow, fallen beech at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*, its first recent record from the County.

Leiodidae (Round Fungus-beetles)

Pitfall and vane-trapping at Ashridge Estate has provided a number of extra records of this difficult group to study.

Agathidium (Agathidium) seminulum (L.). There were further records of this from Aldbury Common (91/Q, R), June-July 2017; Frithsden Beeches (91/V); and Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/Q, W), May-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Agathidium (Neoceble) nigripenne (Fabricius). One was found in a vane trap at Frithsden Beeches (91/V), May-June 2018 *A.P.Foster*, only its third recent record. It seems it may be genuinely uncommon.

Agathidium (Neoceble) varians Beck. One was found in a vane trap at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), July-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Anisotoma orbicularis (Herbst). This uncommon species associated with slime-moulds (Myxomycetes) was found in a vane trap on a decaying beech at Aldbury Common (91/R), June 2017; with further specimen from a fallen ash at Hudnall Common (01/B), May-July 2018; and from birch at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/V), July-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*. These are the first records in the County since 1925.

Apocatops nigrita (Erichson) [= *Catops nigrita*]. Two specimens were caught in an underground pitfall trap at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-October 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Catops fuliginosus Erichson. Intensive survey at Ashridge has provided several new records: Aldbury Common (91/Q, R), June-October 2017; and Hudnall Common (01/B) (v.c.24 [Herts.]), May-June 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Catops fuscus (Panzer). One was caught in an underground pitfall trap at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*; another was attracted to a mercury-vapour moth trap at Little Molewood, Bengoe (31/B), 2/12/2018 *S.Knott* (det. T.J.). These are the fourth and fifth recent localities.

Catops grandicollis Erichson. As predicted in James (2018), this has appeared again: at the entrance to a badger's sett at Wormley Wood (30/C), 6/11/2018 *T.J.*, the third recent locality.

Leiodes badia (Sturm). This rather scarce species of fen and damp grassland was found in rough grass on the site of a former fen meadow at Easneye (31/R), 23/2/2019 *W.Bishop* (det. T.J.). This is its first record in Herts. since about 1930, and shows that, despite the degradation of this formerly rich site, some of its wildlife survives.

Leiodes calcarata (Erichson). One was caught in a vane trap on willow at Aldbury Common (91/R), June-July 2017 *A.P.Foster*, the third recent record, although no doubt under-recorded.

Leiodes litura Stephens. This local woodland species was attracted to light at Little Molewood, Bengoe (31/B), 12/11/2018 *S.Knott* (det. T.J.). It is the third recent locality.

Leptinus testaceus Müller. One was caught in an underground pitfall trap at Aldbury Common (91/R), August-October 2017 *A.P.Foster*. This is only the second recent record for the County of this specialist of small mammal runs.

Nargus wilkinki (Spence). This was found in an underground pitfall trap at Aldbury Common (91/R), August-October 2017; and in a pitfall trap at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), May 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Nemadus colonoides (Kraatz). Only first found in the County in 2014, this was found in wood mould at Thunderdell Wood (91/W), 22/5/2017; and in a vane trap on a dead beech at Prince's Riding, Ashridge

(91/W), July–August 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Ptomaphagus subvillosus (Goeze). One specimen was caught in a vane trap on ash at Aldbury Common (91/Q), June–July 2017 *A.P.Foster*. The fourth recent record.

Staphylinidae (Rove Beetles)

Concerted sampling at Ashridge, particularly of members of the sub-families Pselaphinae and Scydmaeninae, has thrown much-needed light on the occurrence of various species.

Acidota cruentata Mannerheim. **Nb.** This was attracted to a mercury-vapour moth trap at Little Molewood, Bengoe (31/B), 2/12/2018 *S.Knott* (det. T.J.). This is either the second or third recent locality, although it is likely to be elsewhere. It develops in rotting vegetation.

* *Acrolocha minuta* (Olivier). **N.** One specimen was bred from an oak canopy sample, Sherrards Park Wood (21/H), sampled 22/5/2010 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018). It is a species of decaying wood.

* *Aleochara (Xenocara) brevipennis* Gravenhorst. **N.** A specimen of this was found in moss in an old tit's nest in a nest-box at Scales Park (43/B), 6/12/2018 *T.J.* It appears to be a hygrophilous species, occurring in damp moss *etc.* in wetlands.

Anomognathus cuspidatus (Erichson). This was re-discovered at Ashridge, with several records from vane traps on oak, beech and birch at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/V, W), June–August 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Atheta (Atheta) aquatica (Thomson) [= *Atheta aquatica*]. A specimen from Ashridge (91/R), 23/4/2013 *M.G.Telfer*, formerly identified in error as *Atheta (Atheta) brunneipennis* and given in James (2018) has now been identified as this species.

Atheta (Atheta) brunneipennis (Thomson) [= *Atheta brunneipennis*]. The record of this from Ashridge (91R), 23/4/2013 *M.G.Telfer* in James (2018) has been found to be an error for *Atheta (Atheta) aquatica* (Thomson).

Atheta (Atheta) oblita (Erichson) [= *Atheta oblita*]. This was found in a rotten chicken-of-the-woods *Laetiporus sulphureus* fungus at Berrygrove Wood, Aldenham (19/J), 19/8/2018 *T.J.*, the third recent record for the County.

Atheta (Bessobia) occulta (Erichson) [= *Bessobia occulta*]. Specimens of this were identified from a *Clitocybe geotropa* fungus at Sandpit Grove, Little Berkhamstead (20/Z), 9/12/2018 *T.J.* This is the first record in the County since 1944.

Atheta (Dimetrota) marcida (Erichson) [= *Dimetrota marcida*]. A ♂ of this has been identified from a mercury-vapour moth trap at Little Molewood, Bengoe (31/B), 12/11/2018 *S.Knott* (det. T.J.). This is the first record in the County since 1928.

Atheta (Philhygra) gyllenhalii (Thomson) [= *Philhygra gyllenhalii*]. The specific epithet for this species was given in error as *gyllenhali* in James (2018).

The revised checklist in Duff (2018) has reverted to earlier usage, by subsuming most of these small rove beetles in the rag-bag 'genus' *Atheta*, rather than usefully separating them out as separate genera, which had been practice in the UK for some time.

Bibloporus bicolor (Denny). To add to recently recorded localities, this has been identified from dead wood canopy samples from Hoddesdon Park Wood (30/P), May 2008 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018). It was also re-confirmed from several places in the Ashridge Estate.

* *Bibloporus minutus* Raffray. **Nb.** This segregate from the more widespread *B. bicolor* is considered to be more limited to ancient woodlands, but is apparently fairly widespread around London. So it is not surprising that it should have been confirmed from vane trap samples from dead beech at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June–October 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Bisnius subuliformis (Gravenhorst). This specialist of nests in hollow trees has now been confirmed in vane trap samples from Aldbury Common (91/Q), June–July 2017; and Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June–August 2018 *A.P.Foster*. These are the first records since 1926, although it is probably fairly widespread in the right habitats.

* *Bledius (Hesperophilus) dissimilis* Erichson.

RDBI. A ♂ of this rare and little known species was attracted to a mercury-vapour moth trap at Little Molewood, Bengoe (31/B), 27/7/2018 *S.Knott* (det. T.J.). There are very few known records across the country, but it does occur at inland gravel pit pools, so its presence near Waterford 'Heath' might not be accidental.

Bolitobius castaneus (Stephens). A single specimen of this rather uncommon species was found at Frithsden Beeches (91/V), June–July 2018 *A.P.Foster*. This is only its third recent record.

Brachygluta fossulata (Reichenbach). This was bred from a tree canopy sample from Wormley Wood (30/D), May 2010 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018). The second recent locality, but probably much under-recorded.

Bryaxis bulbifer (Reichenbach). Generally considered widespread, but very small, so under-recorded, this was found in the reed swamp at Wilstone Reservoir (91/B), 11/8/2018 *T.J.*, its third recent County record, and the first at this locality since 1900.

Bryaxis puncticollis (Denny). One specimen of this was caught in an underground pitfall trap at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), July–August 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

This is only its second recent County record.

Carpelimus fuliginosus (Gravenhorst). N. A specimen of this species of wetland detritus was attracted to a moth trap at Little Molewood, Bengoe (31/B), 27/7/2018 *S.Knott* (det. T.J.), the second County record.

Cephennium gallicum Ganglbauer. This was found in a vane trap sample from a fallen oak at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*. This is its fifth recent locality, but, given the amount of sampling carried out in 2017-2018 at Ashridge, it is evidently not common there.

Dadobia immersa (Erichson). Three specimens have been identified from a tree canopy sample from Hoddesdon Park Wood (30/P), May 2008 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018), the second recent record.

Dianous coerulescens (Gyllenhal). The specific epithet of this was given in error as *coeruleus* in James (2018).

Dropephylla gracilicornis (Fairmaire & Laboulbène). N. This uncommon woodland species was found in a vane trap on oak at Aldbury Common (91/Q), June-July 2017 *A.P.Foster*. This is its first record since it was previously found at Ashridge in 1928.

Dropephylla ioptera (Stephens). To add to recent records, this has now also been found at Aldbury Common (91/Q, R), May-October 2017; and Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-October 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Dropephylla vilis (Erichson). Identified from oak canopy samples, Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), 2009 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018). A third recent locality, but probably overlooked elsewhere.

* *Euplectus infirmus* Raffray. This occurs in decaying wood and is generally fairly widespread, but local. One ♂ was found in a vane trap sample on a fallen oak at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), July-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Euplectus karstenii (Reichenbach). Concerted sampling at Ashridge has shown that this occurs widely in the area, with records from Aldbury Nowers (91/Q, R), May-June 2017; Thunderdell Wood (91/W), 22/5/2017; Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), June-July 2018; and Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

* *Euplectus kirbii* Denny. N. This occurs under the rotten bark of trees. It can be confused with the generally rarer species *E. nanus*. A ♂ was caught in a vane trap on a dead beech at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Euplectus piceus Motschulsky. Specimens of this have been collected from Aldbury Common (91/R), May-June 2017; Hudnall Common (01/B) (v.c.24 [Herts.]), June-July 2018; and Prince's Riding,

Ashridge (91/W), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*. These comprise the second and third localities for the County.

As mentioned in James (2018), the genus *Euplectus* has been in need of much further research, and these records from Ashridge help greatly.

Gyrophanaena (*Gyrophanaena*) *bihamata* Thomson [= *G. bihamata*]. A ♂ of this was found on the bracket fungus *Laetiporus sulphureus* at Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), 18/6/2018 *A.P.Foster*. This is the first record for the site, and also the first in Herts. since 1926.

Gyrophanaena (*Gyrophanaena*) *gentilis* Erichson [= *G. gentilis*]. Several specimens were found on a fallen beech at Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), 19/6/2018 *A.P.Foster*. These form the third recent record, and the first for the locality.

Gyrophanaena (*Gyrophanaena*) *joyioides* Wüsthoff. N. The specific epithet for this was given in error as *joyoides* in the main species text and index in James (2018).

Hypnogyra angularis (Ganglbauer). Na. This specialist of old nests in rotten trees was found in a vane trap at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*. The first record for the locality, and the second recent record for Herts.

Lithocharis ochracea (Gravenhorst). One was caught in a vane trap on beech at Aldbury Common (91/R), June 2017 *A.P.Foster*, the second recent record in Herts.

Lomechusa emarginata (Paykull). N. One specimen was found on a track by Bramfield Woods (21/T), 28/5/2018 *W.Bishop* (det. T.J.). The second record, and the first for this ant-associate since before 1900.

Lordithon lunulatus (L.). An attractive species, a specialist of fungi, especially in autumn, this has now also been found at Aldbury Common (91/Q), 10/10/2017; Frithsden Beeches (91/V), 28/8/2018; Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), June 2018; and Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), 10/10/2018 *A.P.Foster*. These jointly comprise the third recent locality for the species, and show that it is widespread there.

Medon apicalis (Kraatz). N. This uncommon species was found at Aldbury Common (91/R), May-June 2018 *A.P.Foster*, the first record in the County since 1946.

Micropeplus staphylinoides (Marsham). One was caught in a vane trap on birch at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/V), August-October 2018 *A.P.Foster*. The fifth recent locality.

* *Microscydmus minimus* (Chaudoir). **RDB3**. A rare saproxylic specialist of the rotten heartwood of old trees in ancient woodland and wood-pastures, this has now been found in a fallen beech at Frithsden Beeches (91/V), May-June 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

* *Mycetoporus longulus* Mannerheim. This rather

uncommon species has now been confirmed from the County (James, 2018): one was found in the heart-rot of a fallen beech at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), 5/6/2018 *A.P.Foster*.

* *Neuraphes (Pararaphes) plicicollis* (Reitter). **Nb.** Found under the bark of hardwood trees, one specimen was caught in a vane trap on ash at Hudnall Common (01/B) (v.c.24 [Herts.]), May-June 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Omalium caesum Gravenhorst. A relatively uncommon species of decaying vegetation, this was found at Aldbury Common (91/R), August-October 2017 *A.P.Foster*, only its fourth recent record.

Oxyporus rufus (L.). Little Molewood, Bengoe (31/B): one on dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* flowers, 26/5/2018 *S.Knott* (conf. T.J.). This is only the second post-1997 record.

Paederus littoralis Gravenhorst. From a tree canopy sample, Hoddesdon Park Wood (30/P), May 2008 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018). This is an extraordinary record of a relatively uncommon rove beetle normally found on open, dry soils!

Pella limbata (Paykull). The record of this with ants at Hazel End (42/W), 18/5/2007 *P.J.Attewell* (James, 2018) needs to be corrected: the beetle was in fact found in association with the ants *Formica cunicularis*, *Myrmica scabrinodis* and *M. sabuleti*, and not *Lasius fuliginosus* (pers. comm.: P.J.A.).

Philonthus debilis (Gravenhorst). This was found in the reed-swamp at Wilstone Reservoir (91/B), 11/8/2018 *T.J.* This is only the second relatively recent record from the County, and the first from the Tring area since 1900.

Philorhinum sordidum (Stephens). The generic name of this was mis-spelt in James (2018) as *Philorhinum*.

Phloeonomus punctipennis Thomson. A local species of ancient woodland, this was found at Aldbury Common, Ashridge (91/Q, R), June-October 2017; Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/V, W), May-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*; and at Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), 10/10/2018 *T.J.* These are its fourth and fifth recent localities.

* *Phyllodrepoidea crenata* (Ganglbauer). **Nb.** A scarce saproxylic species, found under the bark of old trees in ancient woodland, this is almost exclusively a northern and western species in Britain, so its occurrence in a fallen beech at Frithsden Beeches (01/A), 9/10/2018 *A.P.Foster* is particularly noteworthy.

Quedius (Microsaurus) microps Gravenhorst. **Nb.** An ancient woodland species, this was found at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/V, W), May 2018 *A.P.Foster*. This is its second recent locality in Herts.

Quedius (Microsaurus) scitus (Gravenhorst). **Nb.** Another ancient woodland species, this was found

on oak at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), August-October 2018 *A.P.Foster*. The fourth recent locality in Herts.

Quedius (Microsaurus) truncicola Fairmaire & Laboulbène. **Nb.** Another woodland specialist, this was found at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/V), May-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*. This is the first in Herts. since 1952.

Quedius (Microsaurus) xanthopus Erichson. **Nb.** Another old woodland specialist, this was also found at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Quedius (Velleius) dilatatus (Fabricius) [= *Velleius dilatatus*]. **RDB1.** This inquiline of hornet's nests has been recorded only once before in the County, in 2004. A second specimen was found at Little Molewood, Bengoe (31/B), 30/7/2018 *S.Knott* (conf. T.J.). Hornets have massively increased in southern England recently, so its re-appearance has been expected.



Quedius (Velleius) dilatatus, Little Molewood, Bengoe, Herts., 30.7.2018. Photo *S.Knott*.

Scaphisoma boleti (Panzer). **Nb.** Specimens of this have been found at Hudnall Common (01/B) (v.c.24 [Herts.]), May-August 2018; and at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), 10/10/2018 *A.P.Foster*. These comprise the third and fourth recent localities.

Scydmaenus (Parallomicrus) rufus Müller & Kunze [= *Scydmaenus rufus*]. **RDB2.** This was recorded from a vane trap on a decayed beech at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*. This comprises the fourth recent locality in the County for this supposedly rare species.

Sepedophilus bipunctatus (Gravenhorst). **Nb.** Two further records of this in the County have come from a decayed beech at Aldbury Common (91/Q), May-June 2017; and from another decayed beech at Frithsden Beeches (91/V), June 2018 *A.P.Foster*. These are the second and third records for Herts., the first having been in 1910.

Sepedophilus immaculatus (Stephens). One specimen was found in moss at Scales Park (43/B), 23/3/2018 *T.J.* The fourth recent record.

Sepedophilus littoreus (L.). A further record of this rather scarce species was from Aldbury Common (91/R), June 2017 *A.P.Foster*, the fourth recent locality for the County.

Sepedophilus lusitanicus Hammond. This relatively recently described species has now also been found at Aldbury Common (91/Q, R), May-July 2017; Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), 5/6/2018; and Hudnall Common (01/B) (v.c.24 [Herts.]), May-June 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Stenichnus bicolor (Denny). Specimens of this scarce species were found in vane traps on oak and beech at Aldbury Common (91/Q, R), May-June 2017; and on beech at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June 2018 *A.P.Foster*. These are the only recent records for the County.

Stenichnus collaris (Müller & Kunze). Specimens have been caught in vane traps at Aldbury Common (91/R), May-June 2017; Berkhamsted Common (91/Q), May 2018; and Hudnall Common (01/B), May-June 2018; and in an underground pitfall trap at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), July-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*. It remains an uncommon insect, and these comprise the second and third recent localities for it in Herts.

Stenus (Hemistenus) ochropus Kiesenwetter. A fifth recent record was omitted from the account in James (2018): Graffridge Wood (22/A), 22/8/2017 *T.J.*

Stenus (Stenus) clavicornis (Scopoli). It should be noted that the index in James (2018) has the name for this species mis-placed to the end of the sequence under the generic name *Stenus*. The text and map for the species are on p. 202.

Thamiaraea cinnamomea (Gravenhorst). This scarce species, considered usually to be associated with the larvae of the goat moth, was caught in a vane trap on oak at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), July-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*. It is its first County record since 1900.

Trogidae (Hide Beetles)

Trox scaber (L.). **HR**. This has been found in a vane trap on oak at Aldbury Common (91/Q), June-July 2017 *A.P.Foster*. It was also attracted to light at Little Molewood, Bengoe (31/B), 27/5/2018 *S.Knott* (conf. *T.J.*) These comprise the fourth and fifth recent County records, but the species is crepuscular, so may be overlooked.

Scarabaeidae (Dung Beetles, Chafers and Scarabs)

Cetonia aurata (L.) (**Rose Chafer**). In a garden, Croft Lane, Letchworth (23/H), 2014-2018 *D.Ketcher*. This is an intriguing and large extension to its known range in the County, and might suggest it is expanding, so people are asked to watch out for it.

* *Melinopterus consputus* (Creutzer). **NS**. This species (formerly *Aphodius (Melinopterus) consputus*) has been identified from cow dung at Purwell Meadow, Hitchin (22/E), 25/1/2019 *C. Le Boutellier* (det. *D. Mann*). It has also recently been found in Bedfordshire



Melinopterus consputus. Purwell Meadows, 25.1.2019
C. Le Boutellier, det. *D.Mann*. Photo *C. Le Boutellier*.

for the first time. Previously it was considered to be a scarce species, limited to the Kent area of south-eastern England, so it may be moving north.

Phyllopertha horticola (L.) (**Garden Chafer**). One was found at Hexton Chalk Pit (12/E), 28/5/2018 *I.Carle* (conf. *T.J.*). This also represents a large extension to its known range in the Chilterns.

Planolinoides borealis (Gyllenhal) [= *Aphodius (Planolinus) borealis*]. **HR**. The known occurrence of this at its only recorded locality in the County has been broadened, with a record from a vane trap on beech at Frithsden Beeches (91/V), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

It should be noted that Duff (2018) has raised all the former sub-generic names to generic level in the previously unified genus *Aphodius* (and amended some), which may cause some confusion with the group in searching indexes.

Clambidae (Fringe-winged Beetles)

* *Clambus gibbulus* (Le Conte). Found in decaying vegetation, a ♂ specimen of this was collected from a fallen birch at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), May-June 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

* *Clambus nigrellus* Reitter. **Na**. This is a species of damp ground, often associated with river banks, but also in damp litter elsewhere. One was identified from a sample in a vane trap on a beech tree at Aldbury Common (91/Q), May-June 2017 *A.P.Foster*.

Clambus punctulum (Beck). To add to the meagre records from the County, one was collected in an underground pitfall trap at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Scirtidae ((Marsh Beetles)

Contacyphon variabilis (Thunberg) [= *Cyphon*

variabilis]. Rather oddly, two specimens of this were found on a roadside Leyland cypress hedge at Whitehill Lane, Ayot St Lawrence (21/H), 2/9/2018 *W.Bishop* (det. T.J.). The area is on dry, moderately calcareous soils, with no nearby standing water, suggesting the beetles may have been dispersing from elsewhere. It is a generally scarce species of more acidic wetlands, and these provide only the eighth recent record.

Prionocyphon serricornis (Müller). **HR?** In addition to the four localities outlined in James (2018), we can now add Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), where an adult was found under waterlogged wood, 6/6/2018 *D.Asaw*. It was also found in beech at Aldbury Common (91/R), June 2017 *A.P.Foster*, which adds to its known occurrence at Ashridge.

Dascillidae (Orchid Beetles)

Dascillus cervinus (L.) (**Orchid Beetle**). A record of this local species of flower-rich, calcareous grasslands from Chadwell Banks, King's Meads (31/L), 10/6/2016 *S.Knott* was inadvertently omitted from James (2018).

Buprestidae (Jewel Beetles)

Agrius laticornis (Illiger). The absence of this species from west Herts. has been corrected with a record from Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*, but it is evidently not common there.

* *Agrius olivicolor* Kiesenwetter. Quite remarkably, this recent addition to the British list (Mendel, 2016) has turned up at a mercury-vapour moth trap at Little Molewood, Bengoe (31/B), 27/7/2018 *S.Knott* (det. T.J.), hard on the heels of another recent arrival, *A. cuprescens*, which was found there in 2016. It was subsequently followed by two more, on 24/8/2018 and 31/8/2018, the last being a ♂. As a species, it develops in the twigs of hazel and (especially) hornbeam, and Mendel wondered if it might have been an overlooked native, although this seems unlikely, given the amount of recording of the group in our area in recent years.



Agrius olivicolor Bengoe, Herts. 24.8.2018. Photo *S.Knott*. Det. *T.James*.

Heteroceridae (Mud Beetles)

[*Augyles maritimus* (Guérin-Méneville)]. **NT**. The

record of this from near Cooper's Green in James (2018) was queried by the National Recording Scheme, and has now been found to be an error for *Heterocerus marginatus* (Fab.) (comm. M. Ashby). It therefore is removed from the Hertfordshire list.]

* *Heterocerus marginatus* (Fabricius). **NS**. A specimen of this was collected from a gravel pit site near Cooper's Green (10/Z), May-September 2015 *M.Ashby*. This is a scarce species of exposed silts and water-margin sands. The record was originally misreported as *Augyles maritimus* (Guérin-Méneville) in James (2018), but re-examination of the record and specimen has confirmed it as this. In addition, an old specimen collected from the R. Lea, Hertford (TL31), 1/6/1948 *E.S.Brown* has been identified in the collections of Oxford University Museums (comm.: G.N. Foster).

Eucnemidae (False Click-beetles)

Epiphanis cornutus Eschscholtz. This introduced species has now also appeared at Sherrards Park Wood (21/H), 26/5/2018 *D.Asaw*; Aldbury Common (91/R), June-July 2017; and Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), 27/6/2018 *A.P.Foster*. These comprise its fourth and fifth localities.

* *Eucnemis capucina* Ahrens. **RDB1**. This very rare saproxylic species, associated with old trees in wood-pasture sites, was found in a vane trap on an ash tree at Aldbury Common (91/Q), June-July 2017 *A.P.Foster*. It was also subsequently found in a vane trap on oak at Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), June-July 2018 *A.P.F.* This is a highly important discovery in Herts., as it is only known to occur in very few, nationally important wood-pasture sites in the UK.

* *Hylis olexai* (Palm). **RDB3**. Another scarce saproxylic species, previously unrecorded from the County. It was found on beech, with which it is especially associated, at Aldbury Common (91/Q), June-July 2017 *A.P.Foster*; and subsequently also on oak and beech at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-August 2018 *A.P.F.*

Melasis buprestoides (L.). **Nb**. Bred from oak canopy samples, Hoddesdon Park Wood (30/P), May 2008; Wormley Wood (30/C), July 2010 *K.W.Smith* (conf. T.J., 2018); in a vane trap at Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), 26/5/2018 *D.Asaw*; and at Aldbury Common (91/R), May-June 2017; and Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*. These records consolidate considerably the picture of this as quite widespread in the tree canopies of our old woodlands.

Throscidae (Small False Click-beetles)

Aulonothroscus brevicollis (de Bonvouloir). **RDB3**. This rare saproxylic species has now also been found,

in beech, at Aldbury Common (91/Q), June-July 2017 *A.P.Foster*. This is its second locality, the other being Millwards Park at Hatfield.

Elateridae (Click-beetles)

Ampedus balteatus (L.). **HR?** This has now also appeared at Sherrards Park Wood (21/H), 6/6/2018 *D.Asaw*, perhaps suggesting that it is spreading, and may not be 'Herts Rare'.

Calambus bipustulatus (L.). **Nb.** A second recent record has now surfaced: from a vane trap at Sherrards Park Wood (21/H), 6/6/2018 *D.Asaw*.

Ctenicera cuprea (Fabricius). Perhaps unsurprisingly, this has now turned up in the heathy grasslands around Ashridge: a single ♀ having been swept in a ride at Berkhamsted Common (91/V), 18/6/2018 *A.P.Foster*. It is more surprising it has not been found there before. However, this means that it cannot now be regarded as 'Herts Rare', even though it remains a local insect with us.

Melanotus castanipes (Paykull). It is interesting to note that all the recent records of *Melanotus* from the Ashridge Estate have been of this species, not of its congener *M. villosus* (Geoffroy), although the latter had been confirmed from there previously (James, 2018). It has recently been found at Aldbury Common (91/Q, R) and Northchurch Common (91/Q), 2017; and at Berkhamsted Common (91/V); Frithsden Beeches (91/V); Hudnall Common (01/B) (v.c.24 [Herts.]); Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W) and Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), 2018 *A.P.Foster*. Whether these records suggest a replacement of its relative in these ancient woodlands is difficult to say.

Dermestidae (Larder Beetles and allies)

Megatoma undata (L.). **NS.** This species, which appears to be a recent arrival in Herts., has now also been found at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Ptinidae (Wood-borer and Spider Beetles)

* *Dorcatoma (Dorcatoma) dresdensis* Herbst. **NS.** A scarce saproxylic species, this has now been found in a vane trap on a decayed beech at Aldbury Common (91/R), June 2017 *A.P.Foster*.

Dorcatoma (Pilosodorcatoma) chrysomelina Sturm [= *D. chrysomelina*]. **HR.** This species, associated with red-rotten heartwood of oak, was found in some numbers on oaks at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*. This is only the second known locality for the County.

Dorcatoma (Sternitorcatoma) flavicornis (Fabricius) [= *D. flavicornis*]. **NS.** Specimens of this were found in vane traps on oaks at Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), July-August 2018; and at

Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*. These comprise the second recent locality in the County for this saproxylic species.

Ernobius mollis (L.) (**Bark-borer Beetle**). **HR.** To add to the two post-1970 records in James (2018), this has now also been found on Scots pine at Jersey Farm open space, Sandridge (10/U), 22/7/2018 *W.Bishop* (det. T.J.); and attracted to light at Bengoe (31/B), 15/7/2018 *S.Knott* (det. T.J.). Perhaps it had a good year.

Ptinomorphus imperialis (L.) [= *Hedobia (Ptinomorphus) imperialis*]. This was found in tree canopy samples from Hitch Wood (12/W), July 2010; and Balls Wood (31/K), May 2010 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J.); as well as on hawthorn blossom and ash at Aldbury Common (91/Q, R), May-July 2017 *A.P.Foster*. These show that it is widespread, if still uncommon, but not 'Herts Rare', as given in James (2018).

Lymexylidae (Timberworm Beetles)

Elateroides dermestoides (L.) [= *Hylecoetus dermestoides*] (**Large Timberworm Beetle**). One was found on a fallen beech tree at Thunderdell Wood (91/W), 22/5/2017 *A.P.Foster*; and another was found at Northchurch Common (91/Q), May 2018 *E.Smith* (comm. *A.P.Foster*). These are the first records from the Ashridge area and suggest continued spread from its initial arrival around Watford in 2003 (James, 2018).

Lymexylon navale (L.) (**Ship-timber Beetle**). **NS.** It is interesting that this has also now appeared at Ashridge, with records on ash at Hudnall Common (01/B) (v.c.24 [Herts.]), May-June 2018; and several on oak and beech at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*. Hertfordshire remains a UK stronghold for the species.

Phloeophilidae

Phloiophilus edwardsii Stephens. **NS.** Having not been seen in the County since it was found at Aldbury Common before 1900, this unique insect, associated with fungi on old oaks, was considered possibly extinct (James, 2018). Such statements are always a spur to reappearance (!), so it was perhaps not entirely surprising that single specimens have since been found on oak at Berkhamsted Common (91/V) and Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), 10/10/2018 *A.P.Foster*; and (less expected) at a mercury-vapour moth trap at Little Molewood, Bengoe (31/B), 2/12/2018 *S.Knott* (conf. T.J.). The latter may show that it disperses away from core sites in good seasons. Apparently, it is largely a late autumn/winter-flying species, and this probably accounts for its supposed former absence.

Cleridae (Chequered Beetles)

* *Dermestoides sanguinicollis* (Fabricius). A single adult of this generally rare saproxylic predator of woodworm beetle larvae, especially of the Ship-timber Beetle *Lymexylon navale*, was caught in a vane trap at Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), 27/5/2018 *D.Asaw*

(conf. M.V.L.Barclay) (Asaw & Barclay, 2018).

Not only was this new to the County, but also to the UK. It is a rare species of ancient forest throughout its western Palearctic range. How it has appeared at this locality is uncertain.

Asaw & Barclay suggest it has been imported, but quite how seems unclear, although there is a timber mill at the Hatfield Estate a few miles away, and French oak is known to have been processed there. However, the

old sessile oak *Quercus petraea* trees in Sherrards Park Wood are thought to have been planted around 1760, possibly from French origins, so there is also the possibility the insect was brought in a long time ago and has gone unnoticed at this hitherto under-studied site. It is noteworthy that *Lymexylon navale*, itself a rare species in Britain, is known from this locality (and several others around Hatfield), so perhaps the two occurrences are linked. It could also be a long-overlooked native, although this seems much less likely, given that it has never been seen at places like Windsor Forest. Either way, it is an extraordinary record. It will be interesting to see if more appear, although these insects are always difficult to find.

* *Opilo mollis* (L.). **NS.** A single specimen of this predator of woodworm beetle larvae in the family Ptinidae in old woodlands was attracted to a 'black-light' moth trap at Bengeo (31/B), 17/6/2018 *S.Knott*. Although nationally scarce, it is not rare, but strangely previously unrecorded from the County, despite being quite distinctive.

Malachiidae (Soft-winged Flower-beetles)

Anthocomus rufus (Herbst). A single specimen was found in the reed swamp at Wilstone Reservoir (91/B), 11/8/2018 *T.J.* This was where the species was first found in the County in 1944, but it had not been previously re-found there, having apparently re-colonised the County from the south since 2006.



Dermestoides sanguinicollis
Sherrards Park Wood,
Herts, May 2018. Photo
comm. *D.Asaw*.

Sphinginus lobatus (Olivier). In an oak canopy sample, Hoddesdon Park Wood (30/P), May 2008 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018). A further locality for this species that has only spread to Herts. relatively recently.

Sphindidae (Cryptic Slime-mould Beetles)

Sphindus dubius (Gyllenhal). **Nb.** To add to the meagre current records in James (2018), this has now been found in vane trap samples from Berkhamsted Common (91/V), May-June 2018; Frithsden Beeches (again) (91/V), June-August 2018; Hudnall Common (01/B) (v.c.24 [Herts.]), June-July 2018; and Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/R, W), May-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*. It is evidently widespread in these woodlands.

Kateretidae (Short-winged Flower-beetles)

Brachyterolus linariae (Stephens). A record from Aldbury Nowers (91/L), 5/8/2017 *T.J.* was inadvertently omitted from James (2018), making it eight recent records.

Nitidulidae (Pollen Beetles and allies)

Cryptarcha strigata (Fabricius). **Nb.** This saproxylic species was found in a vane trap on oak at Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*, only its second recent record in the County.

Meligethes bidens Brisout. Scales Park (43/B), 19/5/2018 *T.J.* Only the fifth recent record. It develops on wild basil *Clinopodium vulgare*.

Pocadius adustus Reitter. This has now been found at several places in the Ashridge Estate (91/Q, R, W), 2017-2018 *A.P.Foster*, its sixth County locality. It is evidently not 'Herts Rare', as given in James (2018).

Monotomidae (Root-eating Beetles)

Rhizophagus (Rhizophagus) ferrugineus (Paykull). Several specimens of this were collected at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), May-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*. This is its sixth known locality, so, although scarce, it is not 'Herts Rare', as given in James (2018).

Rhizophagus (Rhizophagus) perforatus Erichson. This has now been found in decayed beech at Aldbury Common (91/R), May-June 2017; in an underground pitfall trap at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*; as well as in a pitfall trap at Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), 28/3/2018 *D.Asaw*. These comprise its fifth and sixth known localities, so it cannot be regarded as 'Herts Rare'.

Rhizophagus (Rhizophagus) oblongicollis Blatch. **RDB1.** This very rare insect of old oaks in ancient woodlands was found in a pitfall trap under an oak at Aldbury Common (91/R), June 2017 *A.P.Foster*. This is only its second recorded locality in Herts., the other

being Millwards Park at Hatfield, where many large oaks were lost in the 1960s, after its initial record.

Cucujidae (Flat Bark-beetles)

Pediacus dermestoides (Fabricius). **HR**. This has also now been found on pine sap at Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), 6/6/2018 *D.Asaw*; and under oak bark at Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), 20/6/2018 *A.P.Foster*, which are the fourth and fifth recent localities.

Laemophloeidae (Lined Flat Bark-beetles)

Cryptolestes duplicatus (Waltl). **HR**. To add to its known occurrences, this was bred from a tree canopy sample from Sherrards Park Wood (21/H), December 2010 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018), the third locality.

* *Cryptolestes ferrugineus* (Stephens). **HR**. Further recent records of this cryptic species were from a fallen beech at Aldbury Common (91/R), June 2017 *A.P.Foster*; and from a fallen poplar log at Elbrook Plantations, Ashwell (24/Q), 30/7/2018 *T.J.*

Cryptophagidae (Silken Fungus-beetles)

Atomaria (Anchicera) mesomela (Herbst). This distinctive species of wetland detritus was found in vegetation at the pond in Berrygrove Wood, Aldenham (19/J), 19/8/2018 *W.Bishop* (det. T.J.), its second recent record.

* *Atomaria (Anchicera) morio* Kolenati. **RDBK**. Although little known, this is one of a few species in a family considered limited to dead wood habitats in ancient woodland, that is thought to be associated with birds' nests in hollow trees. One was caught in a vane trap on an oak at Aldbury Common (91Q), June-July 2017 *A.P.Foster*.

Atomaria (Atomaria) nigrirostris Stephens. **N**. Another ancient woodland insect, this was caught in a vane trap on birch at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), May 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Cryptophagus distinguendus Sturm. This has been confirmed from a specimen in a vane trap on birch at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), May 2018 *A.P.Foster*. The first recent record.

* *Cryptophagus falcozi* Roubal. **RDBI**. A little-known insect of old trees in ancient woodland. Numbers were caught in vane traps on decaying beech trees at Aldbury Common (91/R), May-June 2017; and at Frithsden Beeches (91/V), May-June 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Cryptophagus laticollis Lucas. One specimen of this was identified from a vane trap at Aldbury Common (91/R), May-June 2017 *A.P.Foster*. The third recent record.

Cryptophagus micaceus Rey. **RDBK**. Two specimens were in vane traps on oaks at Prince's

Riding, Ashridge (91/W), July-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*. These comprise the second record for the County.

Cryptophagus ruficornis Stephens. **N**. Single specimens were caught in vane traps at Frithsden Beeches (91/V), June-July 2018; and Hudnall Common (01/B) (v.c.24 [Herts.]), July-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Erotylidae (Pleasing Fungus-beetles)

Dacne bipustulata (Thunberg). A specimen of this from Bricket Wood Common (10/F), 28/5/2011 *T.J.* has been found misidentified as its commoner relative *D. rufifrons*. It has therefore been found in 12 tetrads in the County, not 11.

Bothrideridae (Dry Bark-beetles)

* *Oxylaemus variolosus* (Dufour). **RDB3**. This predatory, saproxylic species has been found in underground pitfall traps beneath oaks at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*. Along with other saproxylic species, this is an important addition to our knowledge of these woodlands.

Endomychidae (Handsome Fungus-beetles)

Symbiotes latus Redtenbacher. **Nb**. This scarce saproxylic species, associated with fungi on old trees, was found on a dead beech at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), July-October 2018 *A.P.Foster*. This is only the second satisfactory locality for the County.

Coccinellidae (Ladybirds and allies)

Hippodamia (Adonia) variegata (Goeze) (**Adonis' Ladybird**). The record from tetrad 52/B given on the map in James (2018) has turned out to be an error for the much more widespread *Adalia decempunctata*. It has therefore only been recorded from 33 tetrads in the County, not 34.

Platynaspis luteorubra (Goeze). **Na**. This charismatic little ladybird, which was reported in James (2018) as having recently been re-discovered in Herts. after an apparent absence of over 150 years, has now also been found at Jersey Farm open space, Sandridge (10/U), 22/7/2018 *W.Bishop/T.J.*, when several were swept from dry, rough grassland. Its other locality near Cooper's Green is not that far away, so perhaps there are other localities in that area. It is associated with ants.

* *Rhyzobius forestieri* (Mulsant). This is an all-black (with an orange abdomen), hairy ladybird introduced to southern Europe from Australia to control the olive scale-insect. It was first discovered in the UK in 2014, since when it has appeared in several south-eastern counties. In Britain it seems to be feeding on other scale-insects. A single specimen was attracted to a



Rhyzobius forestieri. Little Molewood, Bengeo, 21.9.2018. Photo S.Knott.

mercury-vapour moth trap at Little Molewood, Bengeo (31/B), 21/9/2018 S.Knott (det. H.E.Roy); followed by another on Pampas grass there on 23/10/2018 S.K. A specimen has also been found on a young yew in a glade at Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), 10/10/2018 T.J., suggesting that it is becoming widespread.

Scymnus (Pullus) auritus Thunberg. **HR?** A specimen of this was found in an old hedgerow near Benington Lordship Farm (22/W), 30/8/2018 T.J. There are ancient oaks in the vicinity. This is the fifth recent locality for the species. It was omitted as 'Herts Rare' in James (2018), but may still merit this status.

Corylophidae (Minute Fungus-beetles)

* *Orthoperus aequalis* Sharp. **RDBK**. This is a little known ancient woodland species, associated with dead wood. Several were reared from an *Inonotus dryadeus* fungus on oak at Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), 10/10/2018 A.P.Foster.

Orthoperus nigrescens Stephens. **Nb**. To add to the confirmed records in James (2018), a ♂ of this was recorded from a vane trap on a beech tree at Aldbury Common (91/Q), July-August 2017 A.P.Foster.

Sericoderus brevicornis Matthews. All the specimens from this genus collected during surveys at Ashridge have proved to be this recent newcomer, not its hitherto native relative *S. lateralis*. Records have now been added from: Aldbury Common (91/Q, R), 2017; Berkhamsted Common (91/V), 29/8/2018; and Hudnall Common (01/B) (v.c.24 [Herts.]), May-June 2018 A.P.Foster.

Latridiidae (Minute Brown Scavenger-beetles)

Unsurprisingly, intensive trapping and further study of these cryptic insects has shown that our previous knowledge of species has been very inadequate.

* # *Corticaria alleni* Johnson. **N**. Associated with decayed wood in old trees, a specimen previously identified as *C. inconspicua* Wollaston from a mercury-vapour moth trap at Tewin Orchard (21/S), 16/8/1997 T.J. has now been re-identified as this relatively recently-recognised species. It has also been found in

a dead beech tree at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), July-August 2018 A.P.Foster.

Corticaria inconspicua Wollaston. As noted above, the record of this at Tewin Orchard (11/S), 16/8/1997 T.J. in James (2018) has been re-determined as *C. alleni*.

Corticaria punctulata Marsham. A specimen from Nomansland Common (11/R), 22/5/2015 T.J. was misidentified as this, but is referable to the widespread *Corticaria gibbosa* (Herbst). Two other specimens, from Bayfordbury (31/A), 17/9/2016 T.J. (James, 2018) have also been re-identified as *Corticarina similata* (Gyllenhal) (see below).

Corticarina similata (Gyllenhal). Two specimens originally misidentified as *Corticaria punctulata* Marsham from Bayfordbury (31/A), 17/9/2016 T.J. have now been identified as this. This is therefore the third recent record of the species.

Dienerella (Cartoderema) clathrata (Mannerheim). A specimen of this had been identified from dead wood collected at Balls Wood (31/K), 31/5/2015 K.W.Smith (det. T.J.), but the record was omitted from James (2018). This was the second recent locality. It has also now been found at Aldbury Common (91/Q), July-August 2017; and Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/V, W), May-July 2018 A.P.Foster. Given its small size and cryptic habits, it is no doubt elsewhere.

Enicmus brevicornis (Mannerheim). **N**. Specimens of this ancient woodland species have been identified from trapping at Aldbury Common (91/Q) and Northchurch Common (91/Q), May-July 2017; and from Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W) and Frithsden Beeches (91/V), May-August 2018 A.P.Foster.

* *Enicmus fungicola* Thomson. **N**. Associated with slime-moulds (Myxomycetes) in ancient woodlands, this was found in a vane trap on an old oak at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), July-August 2018 A.P.Foster. Its main area of distribution in the UK would appear to be further north.

Enicmus rugosus (Herbst). **N**. Previously with only two records from the County, this has been found to be widespread at Aldbury Common (91/Q, R), May-August 2017; Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W); Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R); Hudnall Common (01/B) (v.c.24 [Herts.]); and Frithsden Beeches (91/V), June-August 2018 A.P.Foster.

Enicmus testaceus (Stephens). With only one previous, recent record, this has now been found to be widespread in the Ashridge area, with records from: Aldbury Common (91/Q, R), May-July 2017; Berkhamsted Common (91/V); Frithsden Beeches (91/V); Hudnall Common (01/B) (v.c.24 [Herts.]); Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R); and Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), May-August 2018 A.P.Foster.

Similar studies at other woodlands in Herts. would no doubt also find it.

Latridius assimilis Mannerheim. Bred from tree canopy samples from Balls Wood (31/K), July 2010; and Hitch Wood (12/W), May 2010 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018). Third and fourth recent localities, but probably fairly widespread.

Latridius porcatus Herbst. Bred from tree canopy samples from Balls Wood (31/K), July 2010; and Hitch Wood (12/W), August–October 2010 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018). Third and fourth recent localities, but also probably widespread.

Mycetophagidae (Hairy Fungus-beetles)

Eulagius filicornis (Reitter). Having first been found in the County in 2014, this recent UK arrival has also now been recorded at Sherrards Park Wood (21/G, H), 26/5/2018 *D.Asaw* (det. M.V.L.Barclay) and 4/8/2018 *T.J.*; and at Berkhamsted Common (91/V), 29/8/2018 and (91/R), 10/10/2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Mycetophagus (Ulolendus) piceus (Fabricius) [= *M. piceus*]. **HR**. This was re-confirmed from the Ashridge Estate, with records from Berkhamsted Common (91/V), June–July 2018; and Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June–August 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Triphyllus bicolor (Fabricius). **NS**. Two were caught in a vane trap on oak at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), July–August 2018 *A.P.Foster*. This is only the second, recent, confirmed record for the County.

Ciidae (Minute Tree-fungus Beetles)

Large numbers of these have been examined especially from woodland tree canopy samples collected by Dr Ken Smith from 2009 onwards. Further work on these samples is in progress, but records from these have thrown important new light on the species' occurrence in the County. Survey work from the Ashridge Estate has also added valuable knowledge on these insects.

Cis festivus (Panzer). **Nb**. Bred from tree canopy samples, Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), May–July 2010; Hitch Wood (12/W), 2010 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018). It has also been found widely on dead branches of oak, beech, birch and hazel at Aldbury Common (91/Q, R), June–October 2017; and at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), May–August 2018 *A.P.Foster*. It is evidently fairly widespread, and quite numerous where it occurs.

Cis micans (Fabricius). A correction needs to be made to a record in James (2018): a specimen originally identified as *C. pygmaeus* from Whippendell Wood (09/T), 9/4/1996 *R.W.J.Uffen* has been re-identified as this more widespread species. In addition, it has been identified from tree canopy samples from Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), 2009, 2010; and Hitch Wood (12/W), July–August 2010 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018); and has also been found on birch at Prince's

Riding, Ashridge (91/V), June–July 2018 *A.P.Foster*. These show that the species is local, but not 'Herts Rare'.

Cis pygmaeus (Marsham). **HR**. The record of this from Whippendell Wood (09/T), 9/4/1996 *R.W.J.Uffen* (James, 2018) has been found to be an error for *C. micans* (see above). However, further specimens of the true species have been identified from tree canopy samples from Sherrards Park Wood (21/H), May 2010; and Balls Wood (31/K), June 2010 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018). Specimens have also been identified from dead beech at Aldbury Common (91/R), 16/8/2017; and the contiguous Northchurch Common (91/Q), 10/10/2017 *A.P.Foster*. These are therefore the second, third and fourth confirmed localities for the species, which seems genuinely to be scarce in the County.

Cis submicans Abeille de Perrin. **HR**. Further specimens of this have been identified from dead branches of hazel at Aldbury Common (91/Q), 15/8/2017; and from oak, birch, beech and willow at Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/Q); and Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June–August 2018 *A.P.Foster*. It remains an uncommon species in the County.

Cis vestitus Mellié. At least 905 specimens were bred from oak canopy samples from Hitch Wood (12/W), 2010 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018). It was also bred in large numbers from similar samples from Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), 2009, 2010 *K.W.S.* (det. T.J., 2018). In addition, it has been found in dead oak branches at Aldbury Common (91/Q, R); Northchurch Common (91/Q), 2017; and Berkhamsted Common (91/V); and on beech at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), 2018 *A.P.Foster*. It is evidently an abundant species in woodland canopies where it occurs and is not 'Herts Rare', as given in James (2018).

Cis villosulus (Marsham). A record of this from Hoddesdon Park Wood (30/P), 2009 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2011) in James (2018) is an error, having been re-identified as *Orthocis alni* (re-det. T.J., 2018). However, the real thing has been found in canopy samples from Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), June 2009 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018); and in dead oak and beech branches at Aldbury Common (91/R), 16/8/2017 *A.P.Foster*. There are therefore six recent localities for the species, indicating that it is very local but not 'Herts Rare'.

Ennearthron cornutum (Gyllenhal). **HR?** Several specimens have been identified from canopy dead wood samples from Sherrards Park Wood (21/G, H), July 2009, May 2010 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018). It was also found, on 'sallow', at Northchurch Common (91/Q); and Aldbury Common (91/R), 2017; and on beech, birch and oak at Frithsden Beeches (91/V); and

Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), 2018 *A.P.Foster*, the latter comprising one large extended 'locality'. These form the fourth and fifth recent localities, suggesting that it may not be 'Herts Rare', although it is evidently local.

Orthocis alni (Gyllenhal). Bred from canopy dead wood samples, Hitch Wood (12/W), 2009, 2010; Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), July 2009, May 2010 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018). It has also been found on dead oak branches at Northchurch Common (91/Q), 22/5/2017; Aldbury Common (91/R), 10/10/2017; Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), 28/8/2018; and Berkhamsted Common (91/Q), 10/10/2018 *A.P.Foster*, showing that it is widespread in these woodlands, and does not therefore qualify as 'Herts Rare'.

Tetramoridae (Polypore Fungus-beetles)

Hallomenus binotatus (Quensel). **NS**. This saproxylic species has now appeared at a mercury-vapour moth trap at Bengoe (31/B), 5/7/2018 *S.Knott* (conf. T.J.). From having only been known until recently from a single site, this is now recorded from four localities.

Tetratoma (Falsoxanthalia) desmaresti Latreille [= *T. desmaresti*]. **NS**. This scarce species has been re-confirmed at its only known Hertfordshire locality: three were beaten from dead oak branches at Aldbury Common (91/Q), 10/10/2017 *A.P.Foster*. The first record since 1953.

Melandyriidae (False Darkling Beetles)

Abdera biflexuosa (Curtis). **NS**. Bred from an oak canopy sample, Mandeville Rise, Welwyn Garden City (21/G) (near Sherrards Park Wood), August 2010 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018). A fourth locality for this scarce saproxylic species.

Abdera quadrifasciata (Curtis). **NS**. Several were bred from oak canopy samples, Hoddesdon Park Wood (30/P), June-October 2010 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018). It also appeared in vane traps at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*. These are only the second and third localities in the County for this saproxylic species.

Melandrya caraboides (L.). This has now appeared at Frithsden Beeches (91/V), 22/5/2018; and at Hudnall Common (01/B) (v.c.24 [Herts.]), June-July 2018 *A.P.Foster*, adding to the suggestion that it has been spreading, as it is unlikely it would have gone unnoticed here before.

Phloiortrya vaudoueri Mulsant. **NS**. Specimens have been identified from tree canopy samples from Wormley Wood (30/C), 2009; and Hitch Wood (12/W), August 2010 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018); and it has also been found at Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), 7/7/2018 *D.Asaw*. These show that this nominally scarce saproxylic species is widespread in ancient

woodlands in the County, although not yet recorded from Ashridge.

Orchesia (Clinocrara) minor Walker [= *Orchesia minor*]. **NS**. This has been found on decaying beech at Aldbury Common (91/Q), 13/7/2017; at Frithsden Beeches (91/V), 22/5/20-18; and on sallow at Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), 20/6/2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Orchesia (Clinocrara) undulata Kraatz [= *Orchesia undulata*]. New localities are: bred from tree canopy samples, Hoddesdon Park Wood (30/P), July 2010; and Balls Wood (31/K), June 2010 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018); and also found at Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), 29/4/2018 *D.Asaw*. The species, although scarce, is evidently not 'Herts Rare', as indicated in James (2018).

Orchesia (Orchesia) micans (Panzer) [= *Orchesia micans*]. **NS**. This has also now appeared at Aldbury Common (91/Q), June-July 2017 *A.P.Foster*, its third recent locality.

Mordellidae (Tumbling Flower-beetles)

Tomoxia bucephala Costa. **NS**. The presence of this in the Ashridge area was confirmed with records from: decaying beech at Aldbury Common (91/R), June 2017; Frithsden Beeches (91/V), June-July 2018; and Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Variimorda villosa (Schrank). **NS**. As suggested in James (2018), this may be spreading, as several were seen on flowers at Hexton Chalk Pit (12/E, 13/A), 30/6/2018 *T.J.*, the second locality.

Colydiidae (Cylindrical Bark-beetles)

Synchita humeralis (Fabricius). **NS**. To add to its known occurrence in south-east Herts., several were caught in vane traps on birch and beech trees at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), May-August 2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Synchita variegata Hellwig [= *Cicones variegatus*]. **NS**. In a canopy dead wood sample, Hoddesdon Park Wood (30/P), May 2008 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018), the first record from the south-east of the County, away from the Chilterns. The species was found on several occasions during recent survey at Ashridge: Aldbury Common (91/R), May-August 2017; Frithsden Beeches (91/V), June 2018; and Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June 2018 *A.P.Foster*, proving its widespread occurrence in the Hertfordshire sector of this site. It has also appeared at a mercury-vapour moth trap at Little Molewood, Bengoe (31/B), 20/8/2018 *S.Knott* (conf. T.J.), and in a vane trap at Sherrards Park Wood (21/H), 26/5/2018 *D.Asaw*, which suggests it is either more mobile than we might think, or might be expanding.

Tenebrionidae (Darkling Beetles)

* *Corticene unicolor* Piller & Mitterpacher. **NS.** This scarce saproxylic species was found at Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), 29/4/2018 *D.Asaw* (conf. T.J.). Its principal area of occurrence in Britain is further north, so this is an important extension to its known range.

Diaperis boleti (L.). **NS.** This formerly rare species has now also been found in birch polypore *Piptoporus betulinus* fungi on birch at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), 23/5/2018; and at Berkhamsted Common (91/Q), 10/10/2018 *A.P.Foster*. It is unknown how long the species may have been in these woodlands, but it is evidently still spreading north.

Mycetochara (Ernocharis) humeralis (Fabricius) [= *Mycetochara humeralis*]. **NS.** This was also found in a vane trap at Sherrards Park Wood (21/H), 6/6/2018 *D.Asaw*. This is only its second known locality, the other being Millwards Park at Hatfield.

Nalassus laevioctostriatus (Goeze). This has been re-found at Ashridge, a single specimen having been found dead under bark at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), 23/5/2018 *A.P.Foster*. It is evidently not common there, however. This record means it cannot be regarded as 'Herts Rare', as given in James (2018), this being its sixth recent locality.

Pseudocistela ceramboides (L.). **NS.** The re-appearance of this near Hertford after 150 years came in time for the review in James (2018). Another record has now come from a mercury-vapour moth trap at Little Molewood, Bengoe (31/B), 2/7/2018 *S.Knott* (conf. T.J.), also not far from Panshanger.

Oedemeridae (False Blister-beetles)

Ischnomera sanguinicollis (Fabricius). **NS.** This was found in a vane trap on birch at Berkhamsted Common (91Q), June 2018 *A.P.Foster*, which is the first record away from the Cassiobury area at Watford for this striking saproxylic insect.

Salpingidae (Narrow-waisted Bark-beetles)

Lissodema denticollis (Gyllenhal) [= *L. denticolle*]. **NS.** In canopy dead wood samples, Hoddesdon Park Wood (30/P), July 2008, July 2009; and Hitch Wood (12/W), August 2009 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018). These consolidate our understanding of this species' occurrence.

Anthicidae (Ant-like Flower-beetles)

Stricticollis tobias (Marseul). **HR.** This supposedly synanthropic species has also now appeared at Maple Lodge N.R. (09/G), 22/7/2018 *S.Buckingham* (det./comm.: M.Parr) (conf. T.J.). Effectively, this is the second confirmed record.

Aderidae (Ant-like Flower-beetles)

Eugenes oculus (Paykull). **NS.** The absence of records of this from west Herts. has been corrected by a series of records from Aldbury Common and Monument Drive (91/Q, R), and Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), 2017-2018 *A.P.Foster*, showing that it is widespread in these woodlands.

Cerambycidae (Longhorn Beetles)

Anaglyptus mysticus (L.). **Nb.** A record of this from Sherrards Park Wood (21/H), 14/6/2016 *S.Warrington* was inadvertently omitted from the map in James (2018). It is therefore recorded from 31 tetrads.

Aromia moschata (L.) (**Musk Beetle**). **Nb.** Larval galleries of this were noted at the base of old willows at Wilstone Reservoir (91/B), 11/8/2018 *T.J.*, where adults have not been reported since 1892, although it has been found elsewhere in the Tring area.

Grammoptera abdominalis (Stephens). **Na.** Bred from canopy dead wood samples, Hoddesdon Park Wood (30/P), May 2008; and Mandeville Rise, Welwyn Garden City (near Sherrards Park Wood) (21/G), July 2009 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018). Second and third records.

Leiopus linnei Wallin, Nylander & Kvamme. Two ♀ specimens of this relatively newly-recognised species have been identified from tree canopy samples collected from Hoddesdon Park Wood (30/P), November 2009 *K.W.Smith* (det. T.J., 2018). Its congener, *L. nebulosus* (L.), occurs in some numbers at the site as well, so this is one of the few localities where both sibling species have now been recorded.

Poecilium alni (L.). **Nb.** This was recorded from a fallen oak at Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/Q), 23/5/2018 *A.P.Foster*, the first record from west Herts.

Prionus coriarius (L.) (**Tanner Beetle**). **Na.** Another specimen of this was found at Little Molewood, Bengoe (31/B), 12/7/2018 *S.Knott*. This is close to a previous record in 2012, so the colony is evidently doing fine.

Rhagium (Hagrium) bifasciatum Fabricius. This has also now been found at Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), 23/5/2018 *A.P.Foster*, only the second recent record from the Tring area.

Rhagium (Megarhagium) mordax (De Geer). The apparent scarcity of this species in west Herts. has been corrected by a series of records from Northchurch Common (91/Q), Thunderdell Wood (91/W), Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), and Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), 2017-2018 *A.P.Foster*.

Trinophyllum cribratum Bates. The generic name of this was mis-spelt *Trinophyllum* in James (2018).

Megalopodidae (Megalopodid Leaf-beetles)

Zeugophora subspinosa (Fabricius). Scales Park (43/B), 19/5/2018 *T.J.* A completely new 10km record for this, formerly notable, species, which is limited to old aspen stands.

Orsodacnidae (Ravenous Leaf-beetles)

Orsodacne cerasi (L.). **NS.** This was found at Elbrook Plantations, Ashwell (24/Q), 4/5/2018 *T.J.*; and at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), 23/5/2018 *A.P.Foster*, showing a continued spread.

Chrysomelidae (Leaf Beetles)

Altica carinthiaca Weise. This was found in rough grassland, with its food-plant Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, at Jersey Farm open space, Sandridge (10/U), 22/7/2018 *T.J.* Despite only having relatively recently been recognised as a British species, it is evidently fairly widespread, this being its seventh record.

Aphthona atrocaerulea (Stephens). The difficulties of identification associated with this species were highlighted in James (2018). An attempt has now been made to check as many existing specimens as possible, and post-1970 records have been confirmed from the following extra tetrads to those given there: 90/J, 22/A, 23/K, 23/U, 31/P, 32/A. The species is probably fairly widespread, depending on the occurrence of its spurge host-plants, but is evidently by no means as common as *A. euphorbiae*. Post-1970 tetrad records therefore number 8.

Cassida prasina Illiger. **NS.** A specimen of this was found on Yarrow *Achillea millefolium* at Jersey Farm open space, Sandridge (10/U), 22/7/2018 *R.Graham* (det. *T.J.*). This is only its fifth record since 1970.

Chrysolina staphylaea (L.). The specific epithet for this was given in error as *staphylea* in James (2018).

Longitarsus exsoletus (L.). This flea-beetle was found on Russian Comfrey *Symphytum × uplandicum* at Thorley Wash (41/Z) (v.c.19 [Herts.]), 9/7/2018 *T.J.* As this is the sixth locality, the species is evidently not 'Herts Rare', as queried in James (2018).

Longitarsus gracilis Kutschera. **HR.** This was found in dry grassland at Jersey Farm open space, Sandridge (10/U), 22/7/2018 *T.J.* It is only its second recent record, despite the abundance of its food-plant, Common Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*.

Longitarsus reichei (Allard). **HR.** A specimen of this from Wing Hall Banks, Therfield (33/J), 14/7/1989 *T.J.* has recently been identified, having earlier been misidentified as *L. suturellus*. This is therefore a third post-1970 record. Despite its apparent scarcity, its food-plants are plantain *Plantago* species in ruderal habitats on dry ground.

Longitarsus suturellus (Duftschmid). A record from tetrad 33/J in James (2018) should be expunged, as it has been found to be a misidentification of the scarcer *L. reichei* (see above).

Longitarsus tabidus (Fabricius). **NS.** The record of this from Marshall's Heath (11/S), 15/8/2011 *J.B.Murray* (det. *T.J.*), quoted in James (2018), is an error for *L. flavicornis*, and therefore the species has only been found once so far, at Waterford 'Heath' (30/C), in 2011.

Anthribidae (Fungus Weevils)

* *Pseudeuparius sepicola* (Fabricius). **RDB2.** Two specimens of this rare insect were bred from a tree canopy sample, Wormley Wood (30/C), 2009 *K.W.Smith* (det. *T.J.*, 2018). This is a species with very few existing, scattered records from ancient woodlands across the country, none of which have been near Hertfordshire.

Rhynchitidae (Toothed-nosed Snout-weevils)

Byctiscus populi (L.). **RDB3.** This was re-confirmed from Broxbourne Wood (30/I), 2017 *P.Jeffery*, despite concerns by some that it might have become extinct following extensive scrub removal.

Apionidae (Seed Weevils)

Ceratapion (Ceratapion) carduorum (Kirby). **HR.** A re-evaluation of specimens has found that the record given in James (2018) from Waterford 'Heath' (31/C), 19/7/2015 was also a misidentification of the more widespread *C. (C.) gibbirostre* (Gyllenhal). There is therefore only one confirmed record of the former from the County so far, and the latter has been confirmed from 12 tetrads. I have denoted the present species as 'Herts Rare', as this certainly seems to be the case.

Hemitrichapion (Tinocyba) waltoni (Stephens). **HR.** I am glad to say that the fears expressed in James (2018) that this might be extinct in the County have proved false: one was swept from its food-plant Horseshoe Vetch *Hippocrepis comosa* at Hexton Chalk Pit (12/E), 30/6/2018 *T.J.*

Oxystoma cracca (L.). **HR.** One was swept at Jersey Farm open space, Sandridge (10/U), 22/7/2018 *T.J.* The fourth, recent record.

Oxystoma subulatum (Kirby). This was found on its food-plant Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* at Thorley Wash (41/Z) (v.c.19 [Herts.]), 9/7/2018 *T.J.* This is the sixth recent locality, supporting the view in James (2018) that it may be increasing.

Protapion ononidis (Gyllenhal). **HR.** On common rest-harrow *Ononis repens*, Hexton Chalk Pit (12/E), 30/6/2018 *T.J.* The fifth recent locality.

Protapion varipes (Germar). **Nb.** It had been feared in James (2018) that this might be extinct in the

County, but a single specimen was found on bushes at Jersey Farm open space, Sandridge (10/U), 22/7/2018 T.J., a welcome re-discovery. It feeds on Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, a species itself in decline.

Squamapion atomarium (Kirby). **HR.** This has now also been found, in some numbers, at the roots of Large Thyme *Thymus pulegioides* at Hexton Chalk Pit (12/E), 30/6/2018 T.J., its second recent locality.

Stenopterapion meliloti (Kirby). **HR.** On Tall Melilot *Melilotus altissimus*, Hexton Chalk Pit (13/A), 30/6/2018 T.J. The third recent locality.

Curculionidae (True Weevils and relatives)

Acalles misellus Boheman. **HR.** This was in a vane trap on beech at Aldbury Common (91/Q), July-August 2017 A.P.Foster. The fourth recent record.

Anoplus plantaris (Naezen). **HR.** Bishop's Wood, Rickmansworth (09/Q), 21/5/2018 J.Gray (det. T.J.). A welcome find at a new locality of this specialist on birch.

Brachypera (Antidona) zoilus (Scopoli) [= *B. zoilus*]. **HR?** A further record of this has been received from a garden at Woodside, Watford (10/A), 20/8/2018 R.Cripps (conf. T.J.), suggesting it may not be 'Herts Rare'.

Cryphalus asperatus (Gyllenhal). This conifer species of bark beetle has now been found for a second time in Herts.: at Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), 22/4/2018 D.Asaw (conf. T.J.).

Dryocoetes autographus (Ratzeburg). As with the previous species, this has now also been found at a second locality: in a fallen pine at Sherrards Park Wood (21/G), 7/7/2018 D.Asaw (conf. T.J.).

Enoporicus fagi (Fabricius). **Na.** Exit holes of this were noted on rotten beeches at Aldbury Common (91/Q, R), July-August 2017 A.P.Foster, reinforcing earlier records.

Limnobaris t-album (L.). This was found at Tewinbury (21/R), 12/5/2018 I.Carle (det. T.J.), which is the sixth locality. It is therefore not 'Herts Rare', as given in James (2018).

Liparus coronatus (Goeze). **Nb.** Two earlier records that failed to arrive in time for James (2018) have



Liparus coronatus, King's Meads, Hertford, 13.6.2018. Photo S.Knott.

surfaced: by A414, Hoddesdon (31/Q), 2002 M.Pledger (comm. P.Jeffery); Monk's Green, Brickendon (30/J), 13/7/2003 P.Jeffery. Also, a specimen was photographed at King's Meads (31/L), 13/6/2018 S.Knott (conf. T.J.). It is evidently alive and well in south-east Herts., possibly preferring damper habitats with its common food-plant, cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*.

Magdalis (Odontomagdalis) carbonaria (L.). **Nb.** One was swept at Monument Drive, Ashridge (91/R), 20/6/2018 A.P.Foster. This is only the third County record.

Phloeophagus lignarius (Marsham). One was found in rotten wood at Longdeans N.R. (00/S), 14/7/2018 D.Asaw; and several were caught in vane traps at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/V, W), June-October 2018 A.P.Foster, showing that it remains fairly widespread and is not 'Herts Rare'.

Rutidosoma graminosum (Gistel) [= *R. globulus* (Herbst)]. **Na.** One was beaten from aspen *Populus tremula* at Balls Wood (31/K), 10/5/2018 T.M.Bantock. This is only the third recent record.

Scolytus pygmaeus (Fabricius). One on oak logs, Bramfield Park Wood (21/X), 29/6/2018 T.J. The second record of this relatively recent arrival in the UK, abnormally not associated with elm.

Stereocorynes truncorum (Germar). **Na.** This saproxylic weevil associated with old beech trees was found at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-August 2018 A.P.Foster. This is only the second recent locality.

Taphrorychus bicolor (Herbst). **Na.** The generic name of this was misspelt in James (2018). A specimen was found under beech bark at Aldbury Common (91/R) again, 10/10/2017; and further specimens in vane traps at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), June-August 2018 A.P.Foster.

Tropiphorus terricola (Newman). **Nb.** Having only been seen once in a century, in 2016 (James, 2018), a second has now appeared: in hedgerow vegetation at Nicholl's Farm, Redbourn (01/W), 28/5/2018 P.Tallantire (det. T.J.), only a mile or so from the previous record.

Tychius meliloti Stephens. **HR.** On Tall Melilot *Melilotus altissimus*, Hexton Chalk Pit (13/A), 30/6/2018 T.J. The fourth recent locality.

Xyleborus dryographus (Ratzeburg). **Nb.** This was again found, on sweet chestnut, at Aldbury Common (91/R), May-June 2017 A.P.Foster.

Xyleborus monographus (Fabricius). This relatively recent arrival in the UK, which has been established in south-east Herts. for a while, has now appeared in the west: four were caught in a vane trap on birch at Prince's Riding, Ashridge (91/W), May 2018 A.P.Foster.

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Wall ants and wood ants *Phil Attewell*

Since the last report which included the discovery of a new ant species for Hertfordshire, *Lasius sabularum* Bondroit, 1918 (Attewell, 2016), numerous visits have been made to various sites across the county, and some records and specimens have been sent to the author, adding to the record database, but with no especially unexpected finds.

Another potential new addition is *Lasius emarginatus* (Olivier, 1792) (Figure 1) which may well appear in urban or suburban areas inhabiting warm, often south-facing old stone or brick walls, with crevices and interstices in which the ants nest and run along. The junction between such walls and the adjoining pavement is a typical place to see them. The first recorded British nesting site was in 2008 in a wall beside the Regent's Canal at Islington (Smith & Williams, 2008), and it has since been recorded



Figure 1. *Lasius emarginatus*, base of wall, Prebend St, Islington (Phil Attewell).

nesting in multiple sites in the North London areas of Kentish Town, Chalk Farm and Islington (Attewell, 2017) and also in a churchyard wall in the fenland village of Upwell, (Norfolk/Cambridgeshire border) by Anna Jordan and Doreen Wells (Fox, 2017), as well as a single site in the Scilly Isles.

From being mainly a species of Central and Southern Europe (also common in the Channel Islands), over the last 30 years *L. emarginatus* has colonized all of Belgium and is at an early stage of colonization of the Netherlands. Interestingly, the Norfolk site corresponds in latitude to the current most northerly Dutch site (Bernhard Seifert, pers. comm., 2018). It is not, however, an 'invasive' species and poses no threat to native ants, except in taking some territory in urban areas from the abundant common Black Ant, *L. niger* (Linnaeus, 1758). *L. niger* can also occur in similar wall habitats. The Brown Tree Ant, *L. brunneus* (Latreille, 1798) (Figure 2) has a strikingly similar superficial appearance to *L. emarginatus*, but is usually found in different habitats associated with old trees, and is recorded widely, and often abundantly, across the whole of Hertfordshire



Figure 2. *Lasius brunneus*, on tree, Pear Wood, Stanmore (Phil Attewell).

(Attewell, 2014). The main morphological difference is that *L. brunneus* has no standing hairs on the antennal