

<i>Ips</i>	a woodworm (like <i>Cis</i> ).
<i>Orthotomicus</i>	straight <i>Tomicus</i> (see below).
<i>Pityogenes</i>	breeding in pine or fir.
<i>Xyleborus</i>	wood-eating.
<i>Trypodendron</i>	boring in trees. ( <i>Xyloterus</i> : boring in wood).
<i>Hylesinus</i>	wood-destroying or -destroyer.
<i>Hylastinus</i>	an extension of <i>Hylastes</i> (below).
<i>Kissophagus</i>	ivy-eater.
<i>Leperisinus</i>	first element an invention of Reitter's, second 'destroyer'.
<i>Pteleobius</i>	living in or in lime trees.
<i>Hylastes</i>	a woodman or forester.
<i>Hylurgops</i>	resembling <i>Hylurgus</i> , a wood worker.
<i>Phloeotribus</i>	literally bark-rubber, i.e. damaging bark.
<i>Phloeosinus</i>	bark-destroyer. (cf. <i>Sinodendron</i> , <i>Hylesinus</i> .)
<i>Polygraphus</i>	'much writing', from the broad-galleries under bark (fanciful resemblance).
<i>Tomicus</i>	a cutter, for the same reason.
<i>Dendroctonus</i>	tree-killing or -killer.
<i>Xylechinus</i>	'wood hedgehog' (somewhat fanciful).
<i>Tanysphyrus</i>	long hammer (hardly clear).
<i>Platypus</i>	broad foot (but it is the tibiae, not the tarsi, that are broad).

— A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

\* The editor has suggested that the name *Cossonus* might be derived from *cossus* – the larva from under bark eaten by the Romans as recorded by Pliny the Elder, c.60AD in his *Naturalis historia*.

### Observations on adult Fiery Clearwing *Pyropteron chrysidiformis* (Esper) (Lep.: Sesiidae) in south-west France

Although extremely localised and afforded legal protection in the UK, *Pyropteron chrysidiformis* is far more frequently encountered in the western part of Europe, its distributional range extending south to Gibraltar and east to Central Europe and including all of Italy. In the Balkans, it is replaced by the superficially similar *P. minianiformis* (Freyer). It is an extremely variable species, and this recently gave us some cause for concern as far as our local population at Graddé was concerned. Laštůvka & Laštůvka (2001. *The Sesiidae of Europe*. Apollo Books) record wingspans in the range 17 to 26 mm. In addition to typical examples, all of which had a "fiery" coloured vertex, smaller forms, with a wingspan as small as 13mm and often with the head covered in entirely black scales, are occasionally encountered. Following a moth-recording trip here by Colin Plant, Phil Jenner and Rachel Terry, a sample of both sexes of the various forms was taken away by Colin Plant for closer investigation; all hopes of a cryptic new species were dashed when, after he had examined the genitalia, he pronounced them all to be *chrysidiformis*!



We first noted the species here some years ago, when adults were seen resting on Pyramidal Orchids *Anacamptis pyramidalis*. During 2004, the first sighting was on 13 June, when a large example was noted on a thistle, not in flower, at 19.30 hours (French time) in an air temperature of about 23°C. The next day we visited a field a few hundred metres away. The field had not been cut, so the grass in places was over a metre tall. The time was from 14.00 to 15.00 hours and the temperature in the shade was approaching 28°C. The number of Field scabious *Knautia arvensis* plants in flower was enormous, well over a thousand, and this, coupled with something like 750 Pyramidal Orchids in flower made the field a sea of purple. *P. chrysidiformis* was present in large number – more than 30 were counted almost immediately, but in a field of 0.80 hectare, I am sure a few were missed! Most were settled on the scabious, but a large proportion was seen on the orchids raising and lowering their abdomens continuously, for well over a minute. The smaller examples seemed to seek out the lower flowers of the scabious, making it difficult for us to see them among the grass. It may be that the moth is attracted to the orchids by their colour which is near enough the same as that of the scabious. We have never seen any other insect on *Anacamptis pyramidalis* although moths and butterflies are their popularly reported pollinators.

Laštůvka & Laštůvka (*op. cit.*) give the flight period as being from May to August. Here, we normally record the moths as a single generation of adults — between 29 May (2001) and 18 July (1999). However, during 2005, we for the first time noted adults during August at *Lavendula* flowers, although they were rather worn and so still supportive of a single prolonged generation. The year 2004 was only the second time that we have seen flowering in *Anacamptis pyramidalis* so late in the year. It usually occurs between the earlier flowers of Man/Fly/Spider orchids and the somewhat later Lizard Orchid, but this year we have the Pyramidal and Lizard Orchids side by side, hence the clearwings finding the Pyramidal Orchids (late) with the Scabious (normal).

Throughout the years we have also recorded Fiery Clearwings locally on other flowers. The full list is Prickly Sow Thistle *Sonchus asper* and Santolina *Santolina chamaecyparissus* (both Compositae), Field Scabious *Knautia arvensis* (Dipsacaceae), Ground Elder *Sambucus ebulus* (Caprifoliaceae), Lavender *Lavandula angustifolia* (Lavandulae) and Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Orchidaceae).

Local larval foodplants are unknown. We have noted a few plants of Fiddle Dock *Rumex pulcher* in the garden, but these are pulled out when seen. In the immediate environs, however, a great variety of other *Rumex* species is available.— MICHAEL and BRENDA MARNEY, Graddé, 81140 Campagnac, France (e-mail: marney.michael@wanadoo.fr).



Marney, Michael and Marney, Brenda. 2006. "Observations on adult fiery clearwing *Pyropteron chrysidiformis* (Esper) (Lep.: Sesiidae) in south-west France." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 118, 43–44.

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