

for a minimum period of 25 hours. Young (*op. cit.*) suggests that prolonged mating may only be possible for large well protected or very cryptic species, but neither of those characteristics applies to the Many-plumed Moth.— P. J. OLIVER, The Briar Patch, Limpsfield Chart, Oxted, Surrey RH8 0TL.

On the Aston Rowant record of *Ceutorhynchus syrites* Germar (Col.: Curculionidae) and another from Devon

With reference to the appeal for information made by Professor Morris concerning the Aston Rowant (Oxfordshire) record of *Ceutorhynchus syrites* I can give a very few details. The captor was the late G. E. Woodroffe, primarily a student of Heteroptera, but also a very competent coleopterist. The site was Aston Hill and a note I made at the time indicates that he swept one example only, from chalk grassland, on 17 May 1966.

The other record is of an example from Totnes, South Devon, captured on 13 October 1925 by T. H. Edmonds, according to a note I have from the late H. Donisthorpe who, with good reason, suggested that it ought to be confirmed. As far as I know that was never done, nor do I know the present whereabouts of Edmonds' collection.— A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

***Meteorus rubens* (Nees) (Hym.: Braconidae) reared from Large Yellow Underwing *Noctua pronuba* (L.) (Lep.: Noctuidae) in Peterborough (VC 32, Northamptonshire)**

On 19 January and 23 January 2004 I found two larvae of the Large Yellow Underwing *Noctua pronuba* in their penultimate instar in my garden at my Peterborough address by day when collecting heads of Chicory for the table. Both larvae were 2.5 cm in length, green with black dashes, and feeding quite deep within the Chicory heads. The first one soon moulted into its final instar (brown), then the drama started. On 25 January seven wasp grubs emerged from the caterpillar and spun their brownish-white cocoons beside the caterpillar. The exit holes they made in the sides of the caterpillar were clearly visible at the hind end. The caterpillar lived for a further three days, moving about quite actively, but did not feed. It died on 28 January. The black adult wasps all emerged on 4 February, having been kept indoors. They have been identified as *Meteorus rubens* (Nees) by Dr Mark Shaw, Natural Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh, with whom the specimens have been deposited. Dr Shaw reports that *M. rubens* is a widely distributed and frequent braconid wasp which mainly parasitises noctuid hosts which feed near the earth. It has been recorded previously from the Large Yellow Underwing. The second Large Yellow Underwing larva became fully grown and burrowed into the soil on 31 January and pupated successfully. I thank Dr Shaw for the identification and information on *M. rubens*. — PAUL WARING, Reader, Centre for Environment & Rural Affairs (CERA), Writtle College, Essex. Address for correspondence: Windmill View, 1366 Lincoln Road, Werrington, Peterborough, PE4 6LS (e-mail: paul_waring@btinternet.com)



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