

An aphid new to Britain

Two specimens of *Crypturaphis grassii* Silvestri (Hom.: Aphididae) were found within a week of each other in two widely separated suction traps which form part of the Rothamsted Insect Survey network (Woiwod & Harrington, 1994. pp321-342 in: R.A. Leigh and A.E. Johnson (Eds) *Long Term Research in Agricultural and Ecological Sciences*. CABI). One was trapped at Long Ashton, Avon, on 16 May 1998, the other at Writtle, Essex, on 20 May 1988. A third example was trapped at Wye on 25 July 1998.

The species has not been recorded from Britain before and feeds on Italian Alder *Alnus cordata* Desf.. The tree and the aphid are native to southern Italy and Corsica (Blackman & Eastop, 1994. *Aphids on the World's Trees*. Natural History Museum and CABI). The tree has been imported in recent years as an ornamental for parks and roadsides. The aphid has since been found in large numbers on an *A. cordata* in Kew Gardens, London, but not on either of two specimens in the grounds of the Rothamsted Estate, Hertfordshire. It is thus possible that the trapped aphids were of UK origin, but not inconceivable that there had been a substantial wind-borne influx from southern Europe. Samples of aphids found on *A. cordata* leaves anywhere in Britain would be appreciated, but only if there are colonies rather than individuals – aphids of many species may visit the tree without colonising it.

Thanks are due to the suction trap operators at Long Ashton, Writtle and Wye, the identifiers at Rothamsted, Dr R.L. Blackman and Dr V.F. Eastop of the Natural History Museum for, respectively, confirming identification and tracking down the specimens at Kew, and Dr Hugh Evans of the Forestry Commission for information on the status of *A. cordata* in the UK.— RICHARD HARRINGTON, Department of Entomology and Nematology, IACR-Rothamsted, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2JQ.

***Symphorobius klapaleki* Zeleny (Neur.: Hemerobiidae) new to Britain**

A specimen of *Symphorobius* Banks, 1904 was recently passed to me for identification by Dr Mark Shaw (also of this Museum). The specimen had been reared from a pupa found on dead *Quercus* L. twigs from Silwood Park, Ascot, Berkshire in April 1994. The male adult which emerged on 25.v.1994, is pinned and assimilated into the Neuroptera collection of the National Museums of Scotland. The dissected post abdominal segments are stored in glycerine in a microvial on the same pin as the specimen.

Close examination of the specimen resulted in the positive identification of *Symphorobius klapaleki* Zeleny, 1963. The wings bear faint brown tints over the basal cross-veins and the scape and pedicel are distinctly pale brown compared to the dark brown flagellomeres. The dissected male post abdominal segments clearly match those illustrated in Aspöck, Aspöck and Hölzel (1980. *Die Neuropteren Europas*. Krefeld: Goeke & Evers – see volume II Abb. 634 - p102, as well as F. 152 – p.186 for the wing).



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