

since that time have followed that unsubstantiated name cannot in any way justify its validity. Use of Fletcher's name deliberately honours the name of D.S. Fletcher whose national and international work on the Geometridae spanned many years, and whose name was chosen to commemorate that recognition in the name of a moth newly added to the British fauna. And we might remember that its use perpetuates the memory also of Robin Mere, one of a distinguished band of Lepidopterists of the post-war years and to whom we also pay tribute.

There is no case for a populist vote on the matter because it is not just a question of like or preference, as it might be for the species that Bernard Skinner lists and to which could be added legions more; for in the case of *egenaria* the use of the name of Fletcher's Pug distinguishes between the clear genuine records of this century and the confused, unsubstantiated references of the last century.

We should not forget in all this that *egenaria* had actually been found in 1953 by John Fenn at Thetford but not recognised then as this species; so Mere's name of Fletcher's Pug still remained the earliest.

The usual clarity of mind of the author of *Colour Identification Guide to the Moths of the British Isles* will surely prevail in the choice of Fletcher's Pug in further revision of that book.— G.M. HAGGETT, Meadows End, Northacre, Caston, Norfolk NR17 1DG.

Is *Rhizophagus oblongocollis* Blatch & Horner (Col.: Rhizophagidae) basically a subterranean species?

As part of a survey of beetles living beneath the surface of the soil, an underground pitfall trap (Owen, 1995, *Ent. Rec.* **107**: 225-228) was set at the base of an old oak tree on Ashted Common NNR in November 1995. Among the beetles trapped between March 1996 and July 1996 were 14 examples of *Rhizophagus oblongocollis*. The only other Ashted record for this beetle known to me is for a single specimen which I found in April 1979 by sieving leaf-mould from the base of an old oak sited about 150 metres from where the trap was set.

In Britain, *R. oblongocollis* is known from only a few old parklands and is remarkable for its erratic appearances. For example, it was first taken (then new to science) in Sherwood Forest around 1892 (Blatch & Horner, 1892, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **28**: 303) but it has not been found there since; it was found in Richmond Park in 1896 (Peacock, 1997, *Hnbk. Id. br. Ins.* V pt 5a) but, similarly, it has not been seen there again in spite of the entomological interest which has been taken in the park over the years including an intensive survey carried out recently (Hammond & Owen, *in press*); it has been taken in Epping Forest (Forster, 1954, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **91**: 6) but only once. Only at Windsor has the beetle been recorded on a number of

occasions (e.g. Donisthorpe, 1937, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **73**: 244; Allen, 1942, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **78**: 152-154 but none of these were before 1937 or after 1972.

Its occurrence at Ashted in leaf mould and in a subterranean pitfall trap and its erratic appearances in well-worked, old parklands suggests, perhaps, that *R. olongicollis* is basically a subterranean species appearing above ground only in exceptional circumstances. Like its congener *R. parallelocollis* Gyllenhal, a species with well-documented subterranean habits, *R. oblongicollis* has small eyes which further suggests a subterranean lifestyle, as my friend Colin Johnson has pointed out to me. The trap on Ashted Common was set as close as possible to the trunk of the oak tree. The trap reached to a depth of about 25 cm and was almost certainly in contact with large roots. There was, in addition, an old burrow under the tree and the trap may, in part, have protruded into the burrow.

I thank Mr R. Warnock, Corporation of London for permission to study beetles on Ashted Common, NNR, Miss V. Forbes for help in setting traps there and Mr Colin Johnson for confirming the identification of examples of the beetle.— J.A. OWEN, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU.

Little-known entomological literature – *Nature Study* and *Naturalists' Journal* – a correction

Having just completed cataloguing the serial publications in the library of the British Entomological and Natural History Society (BENHS) I was interested to see Brian Gardiner's note concerning the *Naturalists' Journal* and its successor *Nature Study* (*Ent. Rec.* **108**: 216-219). I was surprised, therefore, to find that in the BENHS library there are three volumes of *Nature Study* rather than the single 1903 volume mentioned by Gardiner. The 1903 volume was published as *Nature Study* and without a volume number; it was followed by the 1904 volume published as *Nature Study and the Naturalists' Journal* and which, as volume 13, reverted to the sequence of volume numbers of its predecessor the *Naturalists' Journal*. The final volume was published in 1905 as volume 14 and retained the 1904 title. All three volumes of *Nature Study* were published by Charles Moseley. Volumes 13 and 14 have much the same entomological content as the earlier volumes but with rather more in Volume 14 than in Volume 13.

I understand that Brian Gardiner's error arose because he relied on the 1975 catalogue of serial publications in the Natural History Museum (Gardiner, *pers. comm.*) which lists only one volume for *Nature Study*. The correct publication history, as given above, may be found in the *World List of Scientific Publications 1900-1960, 4th edition, Vol. 2* (1964).— JOHN MUGGLETON, 30 Penton Road, Staines, Middlesex TW18 2LD.



Owen, J. A. 1997. "Is *Rhizophagus oblongocollis* Blatch & Horner (Col.: Rhizophagidae) basically a subterranean species?" *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 109, 92–93.

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