

of Kent), although unfortunately the records give little indication of relative preference for the plants listed. However, for *lutea*, dock is suggested as the main pabulum in Kent, and this is interesting as E. Newman (*Natural History of British Moths*) stated that the caterpillars are most readily found by examining docks on hedge banks. Barrett's observation (*op. cit.*), that *menthastri* larvae were to be found especially on weeds in gardens is interesting for Chalmers-Hunt suggests that this species seems to have a preference for urban localities. — B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Bexley, Kent.

A THRIVING POPULATION OF *PONTANIA CRASSIPES* (THOMSON) (HYM.: TENTHREDINIDAE) IN SOUTHERN SCOTLAND. — On July 30th, 1983, I visited the highest Peeblesshire hills in order to try and confirm a remark made by Mr. A. Buckham about galls on the leaves of *Salix herbacea* L. seen on the summit of Broad Law, 840m. (NT 147 236). The only previous evidence for the presence of the one likely causative organism, the arctic-alpine *Pontania crassipes* (Thomson), in the Scottish Borders was the finding of a few old galls near plants of *S. herbacea* on White Coomb, 822m., Selkirkshire (Liston, 1983, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 119: 67-70). Since the hostplant was only seen on the craggy areas of White Coomb, it was to Polmood Craig (700-800m.), an extensive area of crags on the north slope of Broad Law, that I first went. About an hour's searching of the crags failed to reveal a single plant of *S. herbacea*.

Next, I tried crawling from the upper edge of the crags to the summit, looking closely at the short, sheep-grazed vegetation. At one spot I found two small plants of *S. herbacea* without any galls. Feeling rather tired on reaching the summit, I decided to start walking back to my transport at Manor Head, by the most direct route. I had descended no more than 15m. altitudinally along the north-east shoulder of the hill, when I found myself treading on an area glowing with mature, red *Pontania crassipes* galls. Many more patches of willow were found, not by looking for the plants, but because the eye was caught by the red galls, though a few remained green. The willow occurred interspersed with grass, *Empetrum* and *Vaccinium* in patches of a few square metres in area, always where the soil was very thin. About half of the leaves on all plants bore galls. The lowest altitude at which hostplant and galls were found was 780m.

Retracing my steps over Cramalt Craig (830m.) I again started to find sizeable patches of *S. herbacea* with many galls, though the willow was only on the north-facing slopes, and there were fewer plants than on Broad Law. The ridge of Dun Law (788m.), Fifescar Knowe (808m.) and Dollar Law (817m.) apparently has no *S. herbacea*.

About 300 galls were collected, from which about 220 adult *P. crassipes* emerged in January and early February 1984 after having been kept in a fridge for a few weeks then brought into a

heated room. No parasites were present, which suggests to me that at some time, perhaps during a slightly warmer climatic period, the population of *Pontania* became so small as to cause the extinction of its parasite community. The nearest potential parasites are those attacking *Pontania bridgmanii* (Cameron) and *P. pedunculi* (Hartig) which form galls on *Salix aurita* L. These two sawflies are found no closer than 2 miles from the population of *crassipes*, and at least 400m. lower. — A. D. LISTON, 99 Clermiston Road, Edinburgh, EH12 6UU.

RE-DISCOVERY OF *TACHYPEZA HEERI* ZETT. AND *TACHYPEZA TRUNCORUM* (FALL.) (DIPTERA, EMPIDIDAE) IN SCOTLAND. — On 15 June 1982 at Dalnapot Hill, Elgin VC 95 (O.S. grid ref. NJ 1637) I captured several *Tachypeza* which were walking on bark at the base of a live birch tree. Later examination that evening under the microscope showed these to be the very common and widespread species *Tachypeza nubila* Mg. with the exception of a single female *T. heeri* Zett. Hitherto, the latter species was known in Britain from only two females, the first taken on 6 July 1902 at Dunphail, Elgin (F. Jenkinson) and the second on 1 August 1935 at Aviemore, Inverness (C. G. Lamb), the records given by Collin, J. E. (1961), *British Flies*, 6: *Empididae* (Cambridge Univ. Press).

On 22 June 1982 in Glen Tromie, Easternness VC 96 (NN 7897) I found a single large, dark male *Tachypeza* on the trunk of an ancient alder beside the River Tromie. This proved to be *T. truncorum* Fall. previously recorded as British from a male taken on 27 June 1917 at Rannoch, Perthshire (J.J.F.X.King) and a female found in June 1905 at Nethy Bridge, Inverness (C.G.Lamb), see Collin (*op.cit.*). *T. truncorum* is common throughout Scandinavia and *T. heeri* is rather uncommon in northern Fennoscandia according to Chvála, M. (1975), *The Tachydromiinae (Dip. Empididae) of Fennoscandia and Denmark (Fauna Ent. Scand. 3)*. In Scotland these two species are apparently much rarer than *T. nubila*, and it will be interesting to see whether further intensive recording will reveal them to be present outside the north-east highlands, where the great majority of boreal Diptera have been found. — Dr. I. F. G. McLEAN, Nature Conservancy Council 19/20 Belgrave Square London SW1X 8PY.

EUPITHECIA VALERIANATA HB.: VALERIAN PUG (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE) IN SUTHERLAND. — The light which operates at Rogart in Sutherland (O.S. grid ref. NC 754 007) as part of the Rothamsted Insect Survey (Site number 421) produced two individuals of this species during July 1983 — one, a male, on the night of 6th/7th and another, a female on the 25th/26th. The identity of both specimens was confirmed by examination of the genitalia.

This record constitutes a large extension northwards of *valerianata*'s known distribution. The species is not known to be migratory and there is no reason to suspect that it has suddenly started to



Liston, Andrew. 1984. "A thriving population of *Pontania crassipes* (Thomson) (Hym.: Tenthredinidae) in southern Scotland." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 96, 181–182.

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