

A SECOND KENT CAPTURE OF *MALTHODES FIBULATUS* KIES. (COL.: CANTHARIDAE). — In 1966, *Ent. mon. Mag.*, **102** : 231, I published the first Kent record of this rarity, having taken a single male at m.v. light at Blackheath. I can now report a second male captured in the same manner here at Charlton (2-2½ miles distant) on the morning of 6th June last. It was found on the lamp board after dawn, apparently just arrived, when a decided breeze was getting up. (I find that the individuals of *Malthodes* — with an occasional *Malthinus* — that come to the lamp, all of them males, tend to arrive early (e.g. around midnight) and to resort to the ceiling.) *M. fuscus* Walzl is not very infrequent here at the lamp, as at Blackheath. It is strange that I have never seen either this species or *fibulatus* anywhere in the district, except at m.v. light; for there seems nothing specially obscure about their (adult) habits further out from London. The same applies to *Malthinus balteatus* Suff., which I have twice had at Blackheath. — A. A. ALLEN.

RECENT ABUNDANCE OF *CHEILOSIA VELUTINA* LW. (DIPT. : SYRPHIDAE) IN THE LONDON AREA. — From early times this Syrphid has been regarded as uncommon, or even rare; but it seems to be one of those species that have for some few decades been undergoing a marked increase in certain areas if not generally. Not only has *velutina* been one of the more common Cheilosiae to me since I recommenced collecting hover-flies 20 years ago, but also I can positively declare that in the last two years at least it has been far more plentiful than any other of the genus here at Charlton, if sought at the right place and time. This is notably the case on an expanse of waste ground near the Thames, where it abounds at flowers of hogweed in August; a few *C. pagana* Mg. and *C. vernalis* Fall. may occur with it, but *velutina* heavily outnumbers them and indeed was the only species noted there last year. For my earlier captures see Chandler, 1969, *The Hover-flies of Kent*, *Trans. Kent Field Club*, **3** (3) : 180. The only comparable observation I have seen published is by Mr. R. W. J. Uffen, who found that *velutina* was the sole species of *Cheilosia* to occur on a piece of waste ground, also near the Thames, near Chiswick Bridge (1959, *London Naturalist*, **38** : 56). He noted the species there in 1957-8, between July and September, in some numbers, and remarked that he had yet to meet with it elsewhere.

The fly occurs at *Heracleum* flowers so much oftener than at any others as to make it quite likely that this may prove to be the larval foodplant. The one recorded larval host for this species is *Scrophularia nodosa* (a Continental record of 1880 — see K. G. V. Smith, 1979, *Ent. Rec.*, **91** : 192), but I think it safe to assert that it cannot be the sole one, for the figwort is almost non-existent in the Blackheath-Charlton area where *C. velutina* is so frequent. (This fact may not improbably account for the total absence up to now of *C. variabilis* Panz., always reckoned one of our commonest species, from this district.) — A. A. ALLEN.



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