

*Rubus* deep in the wood during a brief appearance of the sun. After a weak short flight it settled on what must be one of the most frustrating of places — in the middle of a bramble patch on the far side of a barbed wire fence — the quarry at last. Fortunately the sun disappeared at that moment, and with shaking hand I was able to cover the moth with a tube and with finger stabbed with thorns recover the moth and leaf together — the third record for Britain. It is a female in slightly worn condition and when seen at rest has a distinctly silvery-grey overall appearance. A further hour's search with renewed enthusiasm proved uneventful. This second record for this locality is surely an indication that it is resident albeit with a very low status level. — N. F. HEAL, 'Fosters', Detling Hill, Nr. Maidstone, Kent.

MILTOCHRISTA MINIATA FORST. (ROSY FOOTMAN) AND BATS. — Can *M. miniata* tune in to bats? Many people will have noticed the tendency of *miniata* to spiral straight upwards above the M.V. lamp: on three different evenings in Devonshire in August 1980 I had the unappreciated assistance of a bat: and on four separate occasions a spiralling *miniata* dropped like a stone into the herbage as the bat approached. It is not possible to estimate the distance since the moths' nosedives and the bat's arrival were almost simultaneous, so that there was no time to glance at the bat's usual approach path. — RODERICK LOVELL-PANK, 33 The Highlands, Hatfield Road, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 1HU.

THE SPREAD AND INCREASE OF ENICMUS BREVICORNIS MANN. (COL.: LATHRIDIIDAE). — It is probably known by now to a number of coleopterists in at all events southern England that this beetle, formerly rare and recorded from few localities, has become comparatively frequent in the last 30 years or so — though I have seen no reference to the fact in print. Not the least notable feature of this increase is the insect's evident spread, presumably from its headquarters in some of our old forest areas, to places of a wholly different character, e.g. the London suburbs, where it was previously unknown but now occurs regularly. In my own district the first specimen turned up in 1951 (see Allen, 1951 *Ent. mon. Mag.*, 87: 254) by sweeping long grass in my former garden at Blackheath. Ten years later another was taken, and thereafter one or two in most years; in varied situations, but always by sweeping. One was in a less unlikely locality — a few miles away in the Shooters Hill woods, under oaks.

Soon after moving to Charlton in 1973 I began to encounter it in my garden there, still at a very low rate of incidence, usually on the foliage of a birch; this has continued to the present time. On 15.vii.77 three examples were swept from willow foliage at Abbey Wood near Plumstead, two of the rare Scydmaenid *Eutheia schaumi* Kies. occurring with them. Finally at Downe, W. Kent, last June, I swept a solitary specimen in beech woodland; a situation far more congruous with its habits as known in the past, especially as there were fungus-infested logs and stumps nearby. However, in none of the above instances has it proved possible to trace the insect to a breeding-source.



The pabulum of the present-day *E. brevicornis* of the suburbs etc. was thus a mystery to me until, some years ago, Mrs. K. Southern (née Paviour-Smith) mentioned in the course of conversation that this *Enicmus* has been found freely (I believe, in several places around Oxford) in association with the sooty mould of sycamore. She suggested that the beetle's increase might well have been in response to a widespread outbreak of the fungus, which appears likely to be the truth of the matter. As I understand that other coleopterists have observed this association in latter years, we shall doubtless be hearing more about it before long. It is curious, however, that the sycamores in this district seem remarkably free from the sooty mould and I have yet to find the Lathridiid on any of them.

To answer the question whether the spread experienced here is part of a larger movement or not, one would of course have to know whether anything similar had been observed on those parts of the Continent nearest to us. If so, the *E. brevicornis* that we are finding here to-day in such unaccustomed numbers may well not be descendants of our native stock, but have a Continental ancestry. — A. A. ALLEN.

RORIPPA SYLVESTRIS [CRUCIFERAE] AS A LARVAL FOOD-PLANT OF PIERIS NAPI L. — At Dartford, on 29th July 1979, several of these butterflies, mainly males, were seen feeding at the conspicuous, yellow flowers of *R. sylvestris* which grows in small patches within a hospital grounds. However, I also noted a ♀ laying eggs singly upon the plants, and on subsequent occasions in 1979 and 1980 butterflies were observed feeding at the flowers and ♀♀ engaged in egg laying, and I also discovered two medium sized larvae.

*R. sylvestris* is a somewhat local plant usually associated with wet conditions; the situation referred to is not particularly wet although it lies on the clay outcrop of the Tertiary Thanet Sand of the Joyden Wood area.

*R. sylvestris* appears not to have been recorded previously as a foodplant of the larvae of *P. napi*, even under its former name of *Nasturtium sylvestre*. In the locality noted this plant is certainly a regular foodplant, although probably for larvae of the second generation only, for in May and June the plants are small and may be obscured by taller vegetation, nor have they reached the flowering stage which is an attraction to butterflies of the summer brood; also, in May and June there are relatively few flowers of other plant species in the immediate vicinity of these patches of *R. sylvestris*, and butterflies are conspicuous by their absence.

The adults of *P. napi* probably play some part in the pollination of the flowers which are apparently self-incompatible and do not produce much fertile seed. — B. K. WEST 36 Briar Road. Bexley, Kent.

CATOPSILIA FLORELLA F., LARVAL COLORATION — Reverting to my recent short note under this title (1980, *Ent. Record*, 92: 166), I have now been able to rear larvae of this species on the flowers of one of the pink-flowered *Cassia* spp. Green larvae



Allen, Anthony Adrian. 1981. "The spread and increase of *Enicmus brevicornis* Mann. (Col.: Lathridiidae)." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 93, 178–179.

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