

# A Note on some Water Bugs (Hemiptera-Heteroptera) Collected on Cape Clear Island, West Cork

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Cape Clear Island, lying off the south west corner of the Irish mainland is apart from the Fastnet Rock, the most southerly point of Ireland. The island is approximately 1,500 acres in extent and composed almost entirely of Old Red Sandstone. The climate is exceptionally mild, though there is a little shelter to protect most of the island from the effects of salt spray. The islands aquatic habitats consist of an eleven acre mildly brackish lake, L. Errul, some reed beds with a series of small pools, Ballieragh bogs, and several wells and small streams. A considerable volume of information has accumulated in recent years regarding the flora and fauna of the island (Sharrock, 1973). However, it appears that the aquatic Heteroptera have not been studied. Likewise few, if any, records exist for these insects from any of the other Irish offshore islands. Thus it is felt that the following records, made largely in October 1973, will be of interest. The nomenclature is that used by Macan (1964) and localities may be identified more precisely by reference to Sharrock (1973) though all are referable to the 10 km square V92 on the Irish Grid.

**HYDROMETRIDAE:** *Hydrometra stagnomum* (L.), Shore-line L. Errul. **VELIIDAE:** *Velia* sp., 1972, Well near L. Errul.; *Microvelia reticulata* (Burm.), Central Bog. **GERRIDAE:** *Gerris odontogaster* (Zett.), West Bog and Central Bog. **NEPIDAE:** *Nepa cinerea* L., Shore-line L. Errul. **PLEIDAE:** *Plea leachii* Mac Greg., Central Bog. **NOTONECTIDAE:** *Notonecta glauca* L., West Bog; *N. obliqua* Thunb., East Bog. **CORIXIDAE:** *Corixa punctata* (Illig.), Central and East Bog; *C. affinis* Leach, Central and East Bog; *Hesperocorixa linnei* (Fieb.), West Bog; *H. castanea* (Thoms.), West Bog and Central Bog; *Sigara stagnalis* (Leach), Central Bog; *S. nigrolineata* (Fieb.), West and East Bog; *S. semistriata* (Fieb.), Central Bog; *S. scottii* (D. & S.), West Bog; *Callicorixa praeusta* (Fieb.), Central Bog and East Bog. **HEBRIDAE:** *Hebrus ruficeps* (Thoms.), West Bog.

Though I recognise this list is incomplete, I feel that these preliminary observations do indicate a paucity of species when contrasted with the adjoining mainland. However, since many of the species as yet unrecorded from here are known to undertake extensive migrations (Southwood, 1956), it is probable that the islands water bug fauna is limited by the restricted environmental mosaic and the climate of the island rather than by opportunities for dispersal.



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