

Nature Reserve (*Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 116: 246-252). Unfortunately, this record was in error, and referred to *Agrotis ipsilon* Hufn. (mis-spelt as *ypsilon*). *Enargia ypsillon* D. & S. has not been recorded here since the 1930s, when Dr Salter took four specimens at Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth. P.M. MILES, Werndeg, Cnwch Coch, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 4LQ.

TWO NOTABLE GARDEN BEETLES. — *Athous campyloides* Newm. (*difformis* Lac.) is, I think, quite uncharacteristic of gardens at all events in the London suburbs, and its recent occurrence in my very modest one in that area was a surprise indeed. A female of this click-beetle was found (2.vii.88) half-exposed in a slight horizontal burrow in the soil surface under a brick, one of a group laid down as beetle traps in a rough wild corner of the garden. By an odd chance, an example of the common *A. haemorrhoidalis* had occurred under that same brick in May, first as a larva and a fortnight later as an adult. *A. campyloides*, a highly localised but gregarious crepuscular species, is always very much rarer in the female sex, this being only my second specimen; in 1977 I had encountered the males freely on a restricted part of Woolwich Common near here, as usual by sweeping long grass towards dusk (*Ent. Rec.* 90: 279). The females may well be strictly nocturnal and perhaps spend much of their time in the larval burrows. I kept the Charlton one alive the rest of that day and night, but it showed no increase in activity, remaining very sluggish; it was perfectly mature. The season for the species is mid-July to mid-August, and I shall hope to find further signs of its breeding at the spot.

(Up to now (mid-August) none have been found. Yet another *Athous* — *bicolor* Gz. — inhabits the garden, though not seen in recent years, and never elsewhere in the district; this last is true also of the weevil *Trachyploeus aristatus* Gyll. Both species, therefore, may have been introduced there with plants.)

On 12th June, tapping over a net an isolated plant of *Mercurialis annua* which had sprung up in the front garden produced eight specimens of *Apion semivittatum* Gyll. — the weevil's presence being suggested by small holes in the leaves, not previously noticed. Ever since taking a very few in another part of the district in 1979 (*Ent. Rec.* 91:773), I had kept a frequent look-out for the insect on its food-plant where this had strayed a little from front garden-edges in the vicinity, but without finding it again until now. Since I wrote, the annual mercury has increased largely hereabouts, and is no longer the short-lived autumnal plant that it then appeared to be; it is now in evidence from spring or early summer onwards in many suitable spots. Consequently, *A. semivittatum* is probably by this time quite common in the district. I have heard of the beetle from a Wiltshire garden recently, so it seems to be still spreading. — A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.



Allen, Anthony Adrian. 1988. "Two notable garden beetles." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 100, 277–277.

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