

Myrmecophilous notes for 1906 (*with plate*).

By H. ST. J. K. DONISTHORPE, F.Z.S., F.E.S.

(*Continued from p. 289.*)

Homalota parallela, Man.—I had the pleasure of taking this little "Staph." with *Formica rufa*, at Corbridge, in Northumberland, in company with my friend, Mr. Bagnall, as also the minute *Ptilium myrmecophilum*, All. The former has only been recorded from Scarborough and Scotland heretofore. Mr. Bagnall has also added *Notothecta anceps*, Er., *N. flavipes*, Gr., *Leptacinus formicetorum*, Märk., *Quedius brevis*, Er., *Monotoma conicicollis*, Aub., and *M. formicetorum*, Th., to the Northumberland and Durham list this year.

Notothecta confusa, Märk., was not uncommon at Wellington College, and I also took it at Pyrford, with its host, *Lasius fuliginosus*.

Lamprinus saginatus, Gr., has again been taken by Commander J. J. Walker, at Tubney, with *Myrmica ruginodis*, and Mr. Chitty took it in October with *Ponera contracta*, at Charing.

Heterothops quadripunctula, Gr.—I have taken several specimens with *Lasius fuliginosus*, at Wellington College. I have also taken it with *Formica rufa*, at Weybridge, as has also Mr. Harwood, at Colchester. These are not the true *quadripunctula*, Gr., and I am not quite satisfied if they are the same species (*H. nigra*, Kr.) which Dr. Joy has found in such numbers in moles' nests. They appear to me to be a little larger, the punctuation more alutaceous, and consequently not so shining. The latter species is said to be a var. of *H. praevia*, Er., but, I agree with Joy, without sufficient evidence.

Quedius brevis, Er.—Mr. Champion tells me he took this species with *Formica sanguinea*, at Woking. It has only been recorded with *F. rufa* and *Lasius fuliginosus* heretofore.

Bythinus glabratus, Rye.—Mr. Chitty still continues to take this rare species with *Ponera contracta* at Charing.

Coccinella distincta, Fald., was very common at Weybridge, on and about the nests of *F. rufa*, in May.

Trichonyx märkeli, Aub., was again taken by Mr. Dollman, at Ditchling, in April, this time with *Lasius flavus*.

Amphotis marginata, F.—I took this species in some numbers at Wellington College, and also at Pyrford, with its host *Lasius fuliginosus*, and I bred a specimen out of my observation nest, of the same ant, in October. I may mention that I bred *Dinarda märkeli* in my *F. rufa* nest from Weybridge, and I took the larvæ of both *Myrmedonia laticollis* and *Quedius brevis*, in plenty, with *L. fuliginosus*, at Wellington College.

FORMICIDÆ.—*Formicoxenus nitidulus*, Nyl.—This appears to have been a good year for this rare little ant. Mr. Bagnall took it in plenty with *F. rufa* at Corbridge, in Northumberland, and also in Durham, taking ♂s, ♀s, and ♂s, the ♂ not having been recorded from Britain before. Mr. Jackson took it with *F. rufa* at Bournemouth, and I took it with the same ant at Weybridge, in April, May, and July, and also had the pleasure of taking it with both these gentlemen in their localities.

Leptothorax acevorum, F.—I have taken this ant occasionally with *Formica sanguinea* at Woking, and Mr. Pool took it with *F. rufa* at Enfield; taking winged ♂s and ♀s also.

HETEROPTERA.—*Alydus calcaratus*, L.—I took a larva of this bug (in which stage it is very like an ant) running on a hot sandy bank in company with *Formica fusca* in the New Forest. The specimen was so ant-like that, even after I had put it in a tube, Professor T. H. Beare, who was with me, thought it was an ant. I also took it with *F. sanguinea* at Woking, and at Niton, Isle of Wight, in July, in all its stages, running on a path in company with *F. fusca* and *Lasius niger*.

ARANEINA.—*Thyreosthenius biorata*, Camb.—I have taken this little spider with *F. rufa* at Woking, and, in October, with Mr. Pool, at Enfield. Mr. Bagnall has taken it in Northumberland. These are new localities for it. I believe it occurs wherever *F. rufa* is found.

Evansia merens, Camb.—I took five specimens with *F. fusca* at Barmouth, in June. Mr. Bagnall has taken it with *F. fusca* at Winton, and Dr. R. Jackson, with the same ant, at Corbridge. I find I took it with the same ant at Hayton Moss, in Cumberland, in 1903, though I have not recorded it before.

Cryphoea divisa, Camb.—I this year took five ♀s of this rare spider on one occasion, and several more at other times, with *Lasius fuliginosus*, at Wellington College. I once took a ♂ with the same ant at Oxshott. Before that only a single specimen, a ♀, had occurred at Carlisle, in this country.

It is probable that all these three species are truly myrmecophilous, the first two undoubtedly are, but the following spiders are, I understand, chiefly found in other situations; still, as they have been found before with ants, and continue to turn up in such places, it seems advisable to record their capture here.

Phrurolithus festivus, C. K.—I took this species with *F. sanguinea*, and also with *Lasius niger*, at Woking. I have before taken it with *F. rufa* and *L. fuliginosus* at Oxshott, and Father Wasmann records it with *L. niger*, *L. brunneus*, and *L. fuliginosus*.

Harpactes hombergi, Scp.—I have taken it with *L. fuliginosus* at Wellington College and Pyrford, it used to occur frequently with the same ant at Oxshott, and Father Wasmann gives the same host.

Micaria pulicaria, Saund.—I took it in a nest of *F. sanguinea* at Woking. I found it before with *L. niger* at Mickleham, to which ant it bears a strong superficial resemblance.

Microneta innotabilis, Camb., and *M. viaria*, Blk.—Both taken with *L. fuliginosus* at Wellington College. I took these species before with both this ant and *F. rufa* at Oxshott.

Hahnia helvola, E. S.—Taken with *L. fuliginosus* at Wellington College, also recorded from ants' nests by Wasmann.

Theridium riparium, Blk.—Taken twice with *F. sanguinea* at Woking. "With *L. niger*" (von Hasselt). "Hunts *Myrmica laevinodis*" (Henking). Blackwall writes "it feeds on ants."

LEPIDOPTERA.—*Polyommatus corydon*.—Mr. A. L. Rayward records (in the *Entomologist*, 1906, p. 197) that, in June last, he found the larvæ of this butterfly on *Hippocrepis comosa*, at Reigate, and that they nearly all had ants (*Lasius flavus*) upon them. He found that the ants stroked the gland on the 7th abdominal segment, and sucked the fluid that exuded from it.

Polyommatus bellargus.—Mr. Rayward subsequently discovered at Folkestone (*loc. cit.*, p. 219) the larvæ of *bellargus* attended by *Lasius*

niger, he found, however, that *L. flavus* much more readily suck the gland of these caterpillars than *L. niger*.

It is very satisfactory to have had these observations made in England, and we congratulate Mr. Rayward. Father Wasmann records, among what he calls the "honey caterpillars," *Lycaena argus*, larvæ with ants, pupæ in the nests of *Lasius niger*. *Lycaena dorylas*, larvæ almost always in company with ants on *Anthyllis vulneraria*. He also writes that the dorsal opening of the 11th segment is present in the larvæ of the European *Lycaena boetica*, *icarus*, *argiolus*, *aegon*, and *medon*, which, on being sought by the ants, is caused to shut.*

PROCTOTRUPIDÆ.—*Exallonyx wasmanni*, Kief.—I have taken this species (♂s and ♀s) with *Lasius fuliginosus* at Wellington College. It is new to Britain.

Tropidopria fuliginosa, Wasm.—I have taken this species (♂s and ♀s) with *Formica rufa* at Corbridge, in Northumberland, and have bred it out of my observation nest of the same ant from Weybridge. I have also taken it with *Lasius fuliginosus* at Wellington College. This is its first record for Britain.

Megaspilus sp.?—I have captured ♂s and ♀s of a small species of this genus with *F. rufa* at Weybridge and Corbridge.

Synopeas sp.?—I took a specimen in a nest of *F. fusca* at Barmouth last June.

Ceraphron sp.?—I took a very small species of this genus with *F. rufa* at Corbridge, in April.

Anteon brevifilis, Kief.—I took a specimen in a nest of *Formica fusca* at Niton, Isle of Wight, in July.

I must thank Dr. Kieffer for having very kindly named all the above species for me.

Pseudisobrachium cantianum, Chitty.—Mr. Chitty has described this new species from a specimen he took at Charing in a nest of *Ponera contracta*. The insect bears a strong resemblance to the ant with which it was found.

Pseudisobrachium subcyaneum, Hal.—Only the ♂ is known of this species. Mr. Chitty, who has taken it not uncommonly in the Faversham district, suggests it is parasitic on *Myrmecina latreillei*.

ICHNEUMONIDÆ.—*Hemiteles subzonatus*, Gr.—I took a ♀ specimen in a nest of *Formica rufibarbis* var. *fusco-rufibarbis* at Whitsand Bay, in September. Mr. Morley kindly named it for me. Nothing is known of the life-history, it is very possibly parasitic on the ant.

(To be continued.)

Some remarks on the physiological criterion of species.

By W. E. SHARP, F.E.S.

In a recent issue of this magazine (*Ent. Record*, xviii., p. 217) there appeared a very interesting note on the British species of the coleopterous genus *Dinarda*, Grav., by Mr. Donisthorpe, but, although the article introduces a new species to our list, no morphological specific distinctions are tabulated, and the stress laid on physiological data (that of difference of association) leaves one under the impression that

* For further details of this subject see *Nat. Hist. of British Butterflies*, pp. 30-37, also *Ent. Rec.*, xviii., p. 299.—ED.



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