

ENTOMOLOGICAL RECORD FOR DERBYSHIRE, 1936.

By N. BLACKWELL WOOD.

The past year has been so totally different from the three previous seasons as regards weather, that one is likely to find a marked effect on entomology generally. A summer with rather more than the average of rain and comparatively little sun and heat finished with a tropical fortnight at the end of August. Food plants which had been shrivelled and killed by the heat and drought of the three previous years had a chance to make up their shortage this summer. The result will probably be more evident in entomology next season.

Sugaring seems to have been of little avail during the past summer, but a number of interesting captures are recorded from different parts of the county.

Holly Blue butterflies which were in swarms in Cornwall on April 11th, were reported from Littleover by Mr. R. W. Atherley on May 24th, over a month later. Another early arrival was *rhamni*, seen in and near Derby by the writer towards the end of April. This latter insect seems to be getting established as a Derbyshire breeder, as odd examples in increasing numbers are reported each year. *Moneta* has also a firm hold now in the county and was reported by Mr. James Douglas at Alvaston on May 18th. Another early insect, *plantaginis*, hatched on May 26th. The larvae were reared by Mr. R. W. Atherley, having been collected in Mill Dale.

H. fusconebulosa and *H. hecta* were found to be plentiful in pairs in Repton Shrubs on the night of June 16th, when the writer also took *I. lactearia*.

A welcome new arrival is *nupta*. This handsome moth is reported common during the last season at Southwell, Notts., by Mr. A. Simmons, and in Staffs. by Mr. Larkin, to whom we are indebted for a record of a solitary speci-

men in Derby. Entomologists may have hopes for its establishment in the county.

Last year I reported *abietaria* from Repton, and this year it has been plentiful in the same spot. Previous to last year it was a great rarity in Derbyshire.

A rarity in England and not previously recorded in Derbyshire during the present century, *celerio* is one of the most interesting records of the season. Two larvae were taken on fuschia at Normanton by Mr. F. Larkin. One of these is still alive, and it is hoped a perfect insect may appear in due course. Other hawk moths include *ocellatus*—larvae of which were found at Coxbench, Aug. 3rd, by Mr. G. Hanson Sale—and *elpenor*, a number of specimens of which were taken to the Museum during the summer for identification.

During the first week of Aug. Mr. Sale found *Janira*, common at Cosbench, and from the same locality he reported swarms of *gamma* and an odd specimen of *Io* on Sept. 3rd; while *umbratica* turned up at the same locality on June 23rd. *Io* is also reported in numbers from Long Eaton by Mr. Larkin.

Mr. Larkin has also supplied the following records: an odd specimen of *corpini*, which is often very plentiful in the northern part of the county, and two copies of *Satyrata*. A number of *interragationis*, including several specimens of the red form *castanea* on Matlock Moor. Odd specimens of *erosaria* from Repton and *coronata* from Derby are recorded, whilst *maura* appeared at Repton in numbers.

To complete the year, *brumata* appeared in exceptionally large numbers all over the county.

From the gardener's view-point the scarcity of *brassicæ*, *napi* and *rapæ*, particularly in their second brood, was very welcome. In my own garden it was a pleasure to find that, with great quantities of nasturtium and a space given over to members of the cabbage family, not a single larvae of any of these three varieties appeared, whilst

in previous years many of these plants have had to be destroyed quite early in the year on account of the damage done by these insects.

In conclusion, I will quote from a letter received from Mr. Daltry a description of a most interesting find—‘Early in November I took a rare Capsid Bug in Dovedale, on Bunster, as a matter of fact, and it appeared to be very common there, so there is no reason to doubt that it occurs on the Derbyshire side as well in suitable spots. The food plant is apparently *Sedum acre*, the common small yellow stonecrop. Its name is *Chlamydatus evanescens*. I took a single damaged one in 1930 and called it in error *C. wilkinsoni*, itself a good thing. At that time I had no description of *C. evanescens*, though I ought to have seen it differed in certain details from the description of *C. wilkinsoni*. I never saw it again and have often wondered whether it was a winter species, rather unusual in the Capsidæ. It turned out that I was right, and when I took more I soon realised my mistake in nomenclature. I sent specimens to the British Museum and Mr. China has confirmed the name. The only two other records are from N. Wales, the first by A. Beaumont amongst sedum at Colwyn Bay, Aug., 1890 (first British record), *vide* Entomological Magazine, xxx, p. 254, 1894. The second by James Brown of Sheffield at Conway amongst sedum, Sept., 1924, *vide* Entom. Mag., lxi, p. 58, 1925. In neither case was the species of sedum given, but I suspect it to be *S. album* the common N. Wales species. In Dovedale it was running about when the sedum was shaken, quite freely and in perfect condition on Nov. 4th, and again on Nov. 12th in spite of the cold weather . . . It is only $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ mm. in length, brownish black and brachypterous. It is one of our half dozen or so Capsids divided amongst two quite different genera, this and *Halticus*, with possibly one or two odd species that have the power of jumping, the hind femora being enlarged for the purpose as in the Flea Beetles.