

ENTOMOLOGICAL RECORD FOR DERBYSHIRE,  
1944 AND 1945.

By N. BLACKWELL WOOD.

The two seasons in review have produced no startling record in Entomology in Derbyshire, possibly due in part to most Collectors having had little or no time to pursue their hobby. In the Southern and South-Western Counties there have been very many extraordinary records, and insects almost unknown in the Country have turned up, some in numbers.

It is perhaps worth noting that many of the vanessids have been very abundant in 1945. Dr. J. W. O. Holmes has noted large numbers of *atalanta* (Red Admiral) and *urticae* in his garden at Langley Mill and counted 32 *atalanta* in a few square yards of the orchard, feeding on the pears. In my own garden at Allestree *io* (Peacock) was more plentiful than ever before and 14 were captured by my wife in a few minutes from a single buddleia bush. They were of unusually large size and included several well marked *var cyanostica*. A further dozen which I bred from local larvae were also above the average size. *cardui* (Painted Lady) appears to have been scarce in the County although abundant in some parts and I was able to breed a long series from wild larvae. In 1944 I thought *io* was less plentiful than usual in the district and this is confirmed by several collectors.

A very fine gynandrous *P. rapae* (Small White) was captured at Repton on 5th August, 1944 by Mr. R. W. Atherley who later showed me the specimen in his cabinet. It is in good condition and very clearly marked.

*P. megaera* (Wall) continues in increasing numbers and it has been reported in nearly all districts near Derby

during the last two years. *C. nupta* (Red Underwing) is also reported from several localities in 1944 and 1945.

*P. c-album* (Comma). One was found on buddleia on Burton Road in the Borough of Derby on 27th August, 1944 by Mr. Atherley who has found two previously in the Littleover district, all in last four years and it may be breeding in small numbers in that area. This insect appears not to have been previously recorded in the County since 1892.

*A. aglaia* (Dark Green Fritillary). Another unusual insect in Derbyshire was found in North Derbyshire in 1944 when Mr. Atherley saw several specimens and a specimen of *A. euphrosyne* (Pearl Border Fritillary) was found just on Staffs. side of the border. Dr. Holmes reports another colony of *A. aglaia* on the Notts. side of the border near Langley Mill and I myself took a specimen there this year on July 27th.

Dr. J. W. O. Holmes continued his breeding experiments with *C. phlaeas* (Small Copper) and in 1944 bred a most remarkable lot in the f<sub>2</sub> with very large blue wedges. These are most beautiful insects and considerably different to any of the known vars. Some details of these experiments were recorded in the "Entomologist" and are further referred to in the chapter on Theoretical Genetics in E. B. Ford's new book "Butterflies." In similar experiments with *P. icarus* (Common Blue) a number of *ab. arcua* turned up in the f<sub>2</sub> broods.

Entomology suffered the loss of two of its most active local members in the death of Mr. F. R. Larkin and Mr. G. H. Sale both of whom passed on in 1945. Mr. Larkin in the course of his 13 years residence in Derbyshire, turned up many new County records. In our many excursions together I was frequently amazed at his uncanny accuracy in dates and locations when looking for insects not previously known in the district. Mr. Sale despite his considerable age continued breeding,

observing and recording habits of insects until his death and I received many interesting accounts and observations from him at regular intervals. A number of local specimens which he captured at various times have been presented by Mr. E. Sale to the D.E.S. collection of Derbyshire lepidoptera.

The following additional notes and dates have been supplied by Messrs. J. W. O. Holmes, R. W. Atherley, C. S. Garnett, N. Blackwell Wood, A. L. Thorpe, W. K. Marshall and Camden Clarke, all of whom are referred to by initials against the record.

## 1944.

- 17 March. *D. tiliae* (Lime Hawk) Derby, very fine specimen of imago, A.L.T.
- 23 April. *E. cardamines* (Orange Tip) Single early specimen at Mill Dale, R.W.A.
- 26 April. *E. cardamines* (Orange Tip) Single early specimen in Allestree Lane, N.B.W.
- 26 April. *P. brassicae* and *P. rapae*, now plentiful, Allestree, N.B.W.
- 26 April. *C. argiolus* (Holly Blue) 2 specimens at Hazelwood, N.B.W.
- 27 April. *C. argiolus* (Holly Blue) 2 specimens at Duffield, N.B.W.
- 30 April. *E. cardamines* (Orange Tip) at Langley Mill, J.W.O.H.
- 24 June. *E. cardamines* (Orange Tip) several in good condition at Mill Dale, R.W.A.
- 12 May. *E. tages* . . . (Dingy Skipper) at Langley Mill, 1st record for the district, J.W.O.H.
- 28 May. *H. tenebrata* (Small Yellow Underwing) at Langley Mill, J.W.O.H.
- 27 May. *C. rubi* (Green Hairstreak) few at Breadsall Moor, R.W.A.

- 1st June. *Cerura bifida* (Poplar kitten) emerged, 2 years in cocoon. Larva from Shipley, J.W.O.H.
- 8 June. *H. jacobaeae* (Cinnabar) Langley Mill, J.W.O.H.
- 9 June. Newly emerged *S. ocellatus* (Eyed Hawk) and *S. populi* (Poplar Hawk), females placed on window sill at night. The following morning a male had arrived to each and there was a spare male populi. J.W.O.H.
- 18 Aug. *P. megaera* (Wall) common at Allestree and Mackworth, N.B.W.
- 24 Aug. *C. nupta* (Red Underwing) at Stoneyford, J.W.O.H.
- 24 June. *L. astrarche* (Brown Argus) several, all males newly emerged at Dovedale, R.W.A.
- 13 July. *L. astrarche* (Brown Argus) few both sexes in Via Gellia, R.W.A.
- 13 Aug. *L. astrarche* (Brown Argus) few both sexes, mixed condition in Via Gellia, R.W.A.
- End of August. *P. megaera* (Wall) several seen in Derby including one in Curzon St. and three on Manor Road, R.W.A.
- 17 Sept. *P. megaera* (Wall) one female at Melbourne, very worn condition, R.W.A.
- 26 Aug. *G. rhamni* (Brimstone) one near Trent, R.W.A.
- 14 Sept. *G. rhamni* (Brimstone) one, Broadway, Derby, R.W.A.

## 1945.

- C. elpenor* (Elephant Hawk) 5 larvae, Stockbrook St., Derby, C.S.G.
- Falcataria* (Pebble Hook Tip), Langley Mill, J.W.O.H.
- Sept. *S. convolvuli* (Convolvulus Hawk) worn specimen Langley Mill, J.W.O.H.
- 9 March. *G. rhamni* (Brimstone) Allestree, N.B.W.
- 23 March. *P. brassicae* (Large White) Ambergate, N.B.W.

- 24 March. *P. brassicae* (Large White) and *P. rapae* (Small White) Allestree, N.B.W.
- 18 April. *C. argiolus* (Holly Blue) two specimens in my garden at Allestree, N.B.W.
- 21 April. *G. rhamni* (Brimstone) Allestree, N.B.W.
- 8 May. *H. tenebrata* (Small Yellow Underwing) several at Allestree, N.B.W.
- 16 May. *V. cardui* (Painted Lady) single specimen at Radbourne, W.K.M.
- 22 May. *S. stellatarum* (Humming Bird Hawk Moth) Quarndon, N.B.W.
- 22 May. *V. cardui* (Painted Lady) one specimen at Sudbury, W.K.M.
- 27 July. *A. caia* (Garden Tiger) Allestree, N.B.W.
- 27 July. *Z. lonicerae* (Narrow Bordered 5 Spot Burnet) some worn specimens at Langley Mill, J.W.O.H. and N.B.W.
- 16 Aug. *C. croceus* (Clouded Yellow) male at Repton, R.W.A.
- 20 Aug. *C. nupta* (Red Underwing) 3 at Bretby Park and 2 near Castle Donington, C.C.
- Sept. *C. nupta* (Red Underwing) 1 at Marston on Dove, K. G. Smith.

I have recently received the following lists from Mr. Daltry relating to three excursions we took together to Ticknall Quarries, Lathkill Dale and Repton Shrubs in 1928, 1929 and 1938 respectively. These have not been previously published and are mainly in groups other than lepidoptera.

*Hemiptera-Heteroptera.*

- Calocoris sexquittatus* F. Ticknall Quarries.
- Monalocoris filicis* L. Repton Shrubs.
- Cyllocoris histrionicus* L. Repton Shrubs.
- Mecomma ambulans* Fall. Repton Shrubs and Lathkill Dale.
- Phylus coryli* L. Repton Shrubs.

*Psallus variabilis* Fall. Repton Shrubs.

*Psallus varians* H.S. Repton Shrubs.

*Hemiptera-Homoptera.*

*Neophilaenus campestris* Fall. Ticknall Quarries.

*Oncopsis flavicollis* L. Repton Shrubs.

*Eupelix cuspidata* F. Ticknall Quarries.

*Euscelis grisescens* Zett. Repton Shrubs.

*Deltocephalus ocellaris* Fall. Repton Shrubs.

*Deltocephalus flori* Fieb. Repton Shrubs.

*Deltocephalus abdominalis* F. Repton Shrubs.

*Thamnotettix subfuscus* Fall. Repton Shrubs.

*Macrosteles sexnotata* Fall. Repton Shrubs.

*D. Dikraneura variata* Hdy. Repton Shrubs.

*Cixius pilosus* Ol. Ticknall Quarries.

*Delphacinus mesomelas* Bok. Repton Shrubs.

*Delphacodes discolor* Bok. Repton Shrubs.

*Delphacodes flaveola* Flor. Repton Shrubs.

*Psylla alni* L. Repton Shrubs.

*Megaloptera.*

*Raphidia xanthostigma* Schum. Repton Shrubs.

*Neuroptera.*

*Coniopteryx tineiformis* Curt. Repton Shrubs.

*Eumicromus paganus* L. Repton Shrubs.

*Hemerobius stigma* Steph. Repton Shrubs.

*Hemerobius lutescens* F. Repton Shrubs.

*Wesmaelius concinnus* Steph. Repton Shrubs.

*Wesmaelius quadrifasciatus* Reut. Repton Shrubs and  
Ticknall Quarries.

*Chrysopa ciliata* Wesm. Repton Shrubs.

*Hymenoptera Aculeata.*

*Anteon brevicorne* Dalm. Repton Shrubs.

*Pemphredon lugubris* F. Repton Shrubs.

*Hymenoptera Symphyta (Sawflies).*

*Athalia cordata* Lep. Repton Shrubs.

*Strongylogaster lineata* Chr. Repton Shrubs.

*Coleoptera.*

- Phloeopora testacea* Man. Repton Shrubs.  
*Dadobia immersa* Er. Repton Shrubs.  
*Melanophthalma gibbosa* Hbst. Repton Shrubs.  
*Helodes minuta* L. Lathkill Dale.  
*Phaedon armoraciae* L. Lathkill Dale.  
*Ceuthorrhyncus contractus* Marsh. Repton Shrubs.

*Lepidoptera.*

- Argyresthia cornella* F. Repton Shrubs.  
*Eupista laricella* Hübn. Repton Shrubs.  
*Ornix scoticella* Stt. Repton Shrubs.  
*Gracilaria alchimiella* Scop. Repton Shrubs.