The Insect Fauna, Hereford

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Summary

The 30 taxa of Coleoptera from a small sample of organic silt from the site are dominated by species which live in accumulations of decaying organic material including dung. Amongst the small number of plant feeding beetles are two which feed upon trees and shrubs and a further species which lives on duckweed, a pond plant. Most of the species would find suitable habitats in a rubbish dump composed of animal and vegetable refuse perhaps including stall or stable rubbish.

Faunal Extraction

Insects were recovered from the sample by the use of the paraffin flotation method described in Coope and Osborne (1967). Beetles were identified by direct comparison with the reference collections at the British Museum of Natural History.

Species List

The nomenclature follows Pope's 1977 revision of Kloet and Hincks and the totals given for each insect are based upon the minimum number of any common skeletal element.

COLEOPTERA

CARABIDAE

Trechus obtusus Er. or *quadristriatus* (Schr.)	1

HYDROPHILIDAE

Sphaeridium sp.	1
Cercyon unipunctatus (L.)	2
Cercyon spp.	8

HISTERIDAE

Gen. et spp. indet. (larvae)	2

HYDRAENIDAE	
Ochthebius sp.	2
STAPHYLINIDAE	
Carpelimus or *Thinobius* spp.	22
Anotylus rugosus (F.)	2
A.complanatus (Er.)	1
A.nitidulus (Grav.)	2
A.sculptus (Grav.)	4
Platystethus arenarius (Geoff. in Fourc.)	2
Bledius sp.	2
Stenus spp.	3
Xantholinus linearis (Ol.) or *longiventris* Heer	2
Philonthus spp.	4
Tachinus sp.	1
Falagria caesa Er.	1
Aleocharinae *indet.*	25
SCARABAEIDAE	
Oxyomus sylvestris (Scop.)	1
DRYOPIDAE	
Dryops sp.	1
PTINIDAE	
Tipnus unicolor (Pill. and Mitt.)	2
CRYTPOPHAGIDAE	
Cryptophagus sp.	1
LATHRIDIIDAE	
Corticaria punctulata Marsh.	3
CHRYSOMELIDAE	
Chaetocnema concinna Marsh.	1

APIONIDAE

Apion sp.	4

CURCULIONIDAE

Tanysphyrus lemnae (Payk.)	2
Ceutorhynchus sp.	1

SCOLYTIDAE

Hylesinus olieperda (F.)	1
Phloeophthorus rhododactylus (Marsh.)	1

DIPTERA

Gen. et spp. indet.	51

HYMENOPTERA

Parasitica indet.	3

Ecological Requirements of the Fauna

The largest faunal element, comprising Hydrophilidae, Histeridae, Staphylinidae and Scarabaeidae, signifies that decaying organic material, probably including dung, provided the most important habitat in the immediate vicinity. Tottenham (1954) notes that dung is an important habitat for species of Anotylus from the deposit. Oxyomus sylvestris, the single representative of the Scarabaeidae family, is not, however, tied to dung and is more usually found in decaying vegetation (Joy 1932). The host plants of the phytophagous species provide an indication of the available vegation cover. Apion sp. Ceutorhynchus sp. and Chaetocnema concinna live on a variety of low palnts, the latter often being found on Polygonum. The Scolytidae, however, are tree and shrub feeders. Ash is the host tree of Hylesinus olieperda, (Duffy 1953) and Phloeophthorus rhododactylus lives on broom and gorse. Tanysphyrus lemnae feeds on duckweed, a plant which forms a mat on the surface of ponds or slowly flowing streams.

Although the significance of such a small fauna must be questioned, the deposit may have accumulated as refuse possibly near an open area.

References

Coope,G.R. and Osborne,P.J. (1967) Report on the Coleopterous Fauna from the Roman Well at Barnsley Park, Gloucestershire. Trans. Brist. and Gloucs. Arch. Soc. , 86, 84 - 87.

Duffy,A.E.J. (1953) Scolytidae and Platypodidae, Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects. Royal Entomological Society: London.

Joy, N.H. (1932) A Practical Handbook of British Beetles , Witherby:Edinburgh.

Tottenham,C.E. (1954) Staphylinidae, Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects. Royal Entomological Society:London.

HEREFORD Medieval

One grain Wheat Triticum sp.

J.R.B.Arthur.

Ranunculus acris L.	Meadow buttercup	8 achenes
R.sp.		4 achenes too eroded for identification
Papaver rhoes L.	Red poppy	31 seeds
P.argemone L.	Long prickly-headed poppy	21 seeds
Agrostemma githago L.	Corn cockle	2 seeds
Stellaria media (L) Mill.	Chickweed	1 seed
S.graminea L.	Lesser stitchwort	4 seeds
Chenopodium album L.	Fat hen	12 seeds
Polygonum aviculare L.	Redshank	5 achenes
P.hydropiper L.	Water pepper	9 achenes
Rumex conglomeratus Murr.	Sharp dock	9 achenes + 2 fruits
R.crispus L.	Curled dock	1 achene
Euphorbia exigua L.	Dwarf spurge	15 seeds
Urtica dioica L.	Stinging nettle	5 achenes
Sambucus nigra L.	Elderberry	1 seed
Epilobium sp.	Willow herb	1 seed
Rubus sp.	Blackberry	4 achenes
Aphanes arvensis Scop.	Parsley piert	5 achenes
Potentilla sterilis (L) Gaercke.	Barren strawberry	1 achene
Malva neglecta Wallr.	Dwarf mallow	1 seed
Galeopsis tetrahit L.	Hemp nettle	3 nutlets
Prunella vulgaris L.	Self heal	2 nutlets
Lycopus europaeus L.	Gipsywort	1 nutlet
Lamiaceae family		2 unidentifiable nutlets
Betonica officinalis L.	Betony	1 nutlet
Anthemis cotula L.	Stinking mayweed	126 achenes
A.arvensis L.	Corn chamomile	9 achenes
Lapsana communis L.	Nipplewort	4 achenes
Leontodon hispidus L.	Hawkbit	3 achenes
Juncus sp.	Rush	9 seeds
Carex flacca Schreb.	Glaucous heath sedge	3 achenes
C.divulsa Stokes	Grey sedge	3 achenes
C.sylvatica Huds.	Wood sedge	3 achenes

P.J.Paradine

J.R.B. Arthur