

The Insect Fauna, Hereford

FILE 69/1

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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

PEPTINIDAE

Tipnus unicolor (Pill. and Mitt.) 2

CRYPTOPHAGIDAE

Cryptophagus sp. 1

LATHRIDIIDAE

Corticaria punctulata Marsh. 3

CHRYSOMELIDAE

Chaetocnema concinna Marsh. 1

APIONIDAE

Apion sp. 4

CURCULIONIDAE

Tanysphyrus lemnae (Payk.) 2

Geutorhynchus sp. 1

SCOLYTIDAE

Hylesinus olieperda (L.) 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 vegetation cover. Apion sp. Geutorhynchus sp. and Chaetocnema concinna live on a variety of low plants, 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

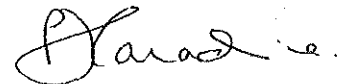
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HEREFORD Medieval

One grain Wheat Triticum sp.

J.R.B.Arthur.

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



P.J.Paradine

