

Books, includes some spiders which are found in southern Europe and so does the German book *Spinnen, beobachten—bestimmen* by Heiko Bellman published by Neumann-Neudamm.

SHORT COMMUNICATION

New records of *Asindulum nigrum* Latreille (Diptera: Keroplatidae).—The British status of this large (7–8 mm body length) entirely black gnat, which has an elongate proboscis and feeds at flowers on wetlands, was touched on by Chandler (1987) although an old Oxfordshire record by Hamm (1926) was overlooked then.

Surprisingly, new records have accrued each year since 1987. *A. nigrum* has been found at two new sites in Norfolk during the Nature Conservancy Council Survey of wetlands in East Anglia by Andrew Foster and Deborah Proctor, and the 1990 Winchester-based field meeting of the Diptera Recording Schemes disclosed its presence in the Itchen Valley, Hampshire.

The Norfolk sites are Mills Marsh, 27.vi.1988, male and female, (A. P. Foster) and 27.vi.–11.vii.88, male and two females, (water traps at same site); Woodbastwick NNR, 14.vii.1989, male, at *Oenanthe fistulosa* L. flowers (A. P. Foster). Previous flower feeding records have been from *Heracleum* or *Angelica* flowers (e. g. Morley, 1920). These sites are, in common with those in Hampshire mentioned below, peaty fenland in the flood plains of calcareous rivers.

In Hampshire it was first collected on 10.vii.1990 by John Dobson who found a male and two females by sweeping near the edges of cattle-grazed fields with a good variety of herbaceous vegetation on Winnall Moor, a wetland local nature reserve by the River Itchen just north of Winchester. This site was much frequented during the week because of the abundance of *Syneches muscarius* (F.) (Hybotidae) but no further examples of *A. nigrum* could be found. However, on 14.vii.1990, a similar lightly grazed site by the River Itchen near Ovington, where a few *S. muscarius* were also found, was worked and sweeping fen vegetation produced two males and a female of *A. nigrum* (A. E. Stubbs and P. J. Chandler).

Umbels were not available at these sites (*Angelica* was present but not yet in flower) although *Heracleum* was checked in nearby hedges at Winnall Moor. Examination of other flowers of which meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria* L.) was dominant, was unsuccessful during my visits. This was attributed to the hot and dry weather conditions.

These new discoveries suggest that *A. nigrum* should be sought more widely in wetland habitats although it has not been found by the extensive recent Nature Conservancy Surveys of such sites in Wales or Oxfordshire, despite the old record from the latter county mentioned above.—P. J. Chandler, Weston Research Laboratories, Vanwall Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 4UF.

REFERENCES

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 Morley, C. 1920. Collecting fungus gnats. *Entomologist* 53: 83–84.