ROCETELION HUMERALE (ZETT.) (DIPTERA: KEROPLATIDAE) CONFIRMED AS A BRITISH SPECIES AND NEW TO SCOTLAND

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This is a relatively large distinctively marked gnat; the thorax is mainly reddish brown with a pair of darker sublateral stripes dorsally and dark pleural markings, the abdomen is dark brown with yellow basal bands on tergites 1–6 and there is a brown preapical wing marking (male body length 10 mm, wing length 6 mm). The Handbook by Hutson, Ackland & Kidd (1980), in which the name *Cerotelion humeralis* is used for the species, referred to a single Somerset record in A. E. J. Carter's collection which could not be traced and the authors had not seen a British specimen. Edwards (1925), adding the species to the British List, gave Olverston, Glos. (collected by H. J. Charbonnier) as the only locality known to him. However, the Bristol list (Audcent, 1949) does also cite a record by A. E. Hudd from Leigh Woods, Somerset.

The specimens from these English records are not at the Bristol City Museum where the Audcent and Charbonnier material is housed, and I have not succeeded in tracing A. E. J. Carter's collection. Any information as to their whereabouts would be much appreciated.

The genus *Rocetelion* was proposed by Matile (1988) for *humerale* and three North American species, differing from allied genera in the several rows of short apical bristles on the scutellum, an elongate fore protarsus and the simple apical margin of their claspers (contrasted with the apically forked claspers of *Cerotelion*). Matile cited no new records but summarized the distribution as north European (extending from Britain to the European USSR), amplified in the Palaearctic Catalogue (Krivosheina & Mamaev, 1988) which specified Norway, Sweden, Finland, Britain, East and West Germany, Czechoslovakia and Latvia. In the Czech checklist, Laštovka (1987) recorded it from Moravia and as new to Bohemia. Recent German records are provided by Plassmann & Plachter (1988) and Grundmann (1990). I have a German male collected by Alan Stubbs at Hammerau in Bavaria.

This species can now be confirmed as British. During the Diptera Recording Schemes Field Meeting based at Muir of Ord, Ross in July 1991, I was delighted when Andrew Godfrey presented me with a male *R. humerale* found by him at Loch Loy, Nairn on 17 July. It was swept from the mixed woodland (alder, sallow, birch and pine) fringing the shore of the Loch. A visit two days later by Ivan Perry and myself failed to reveal any further evidence of the species.

The biology of *R. humerale* is unknown, but it may be presumed to have similar habits to those of *Cerotelion* and *Keroplatus* which have slender spore feeding larvae living in slimy webs which they spin on the surface of dead wood and fungi. There is a good quantity of dead wood in the denser parts of the Loch Loy woodland near the south shore of the Loch, and it is hoped that future visits to the site may result in more being learned of this gnat.

I am grateful to Andrew Godfrey for enabling me to report his interesting find.

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BOOK REVIEW

Clothes moths (Tineidae) Part Five, subfamily Myrmecozelinae. Fauna of the USSR. Lepidoptera Vol. IV, No. 5, by A. K. Zagulajev. English Edition, Leiden, E. J. Brill, 1989, xix + 547 pp, 8 plates.—This book was originally published in 1975 in Russian. The English translation makes it usable by a much wider group of entomologists. In the strange ways of the contemporary world it has been translated and printed in India!

It is a monograph of this family in the Palaearctic region covering 95 species in 13 genera. There is an extensive introduction covering the morphology of adults, their evolution, biology, distribution and classification with an equally extensive bibliography. The taxonomic section is thorough and well illustrated with line drawings. In addition there are five monochrome plates depicting typical localities and three good quality double-sided colour plates showing a total of 18 adult specimens.

In the introduction to the English edition D. R. Davis points out that the book has the advantage that many references to Russian literature are cited which are often overlooked by Western entomologists. At the same time it has the disadvantage that the author was not able to visit many museums in the West which would have given a greather breadth of understanding.

Only four of the species treated are on the British list and of them only *Myrmecozela ochraceella* (Tengst.) is still known to be resident. Its interest to British readers will be confined to specialists; after 16 years it is bound to be already somewhat out of date, but it is likely to remain an important book of reference. Despite extensive taxonomic treatment and some knowledge of the life history it is a pity we still appear to have no understanding of the peculiar relationship between *M. ochraceella* and the ants in whose nests it lives.

One must welcome this translation, sponsored in the USA of another important work from the USSR.

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