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ORTHOPTERA IN CARMARTHENSHIRE, 1998-99 - I K MORGAN

The dark bush-cricket *Pholidoptera griseoaptera* was recorded opposite the Rwyth Inn, Pontyates 22/470082 (11.8.1998); Cwm Cape! 22/451021 (17.9.1998) and Mynydd-y-Garreg 22/434084 (10.8.1999). Earlier in the year (8.4.1999), at Tywyn Burrows 22/365049, Ceperoy's groundhopper *Tetrix ceperoi* was found on damp, bare sand behind the target area.

DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES IN CARMARTHENSHIRE, 1998-1999 - I K MORGAN

Some brief notes on Odonata for 1997 were offered in DIG 34:21, where the continuing success of the black-tailed skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum* in Carmarthenshire was remarked upon. This colonisation continues with 4 individuals at 'the Starfish Pond' 22/391015 in Pembrey Forest on 19.6.98, and others at 'the Ski Slope Pond' 22/402000 within Pembrey Country Park on 26.7.98. The spate of water bodies which have been excavated between Burry Port and Loughor Bridge, as part of the Llanelli Millennium Coastal Park initiative, are also providing habitat for this colonist. This dragonfly was first recorded in 1989 at WWT Penclacwydd by Barry Stewart and this year, over the massive wetland creation area 21/536985 to the east of the WWT Centre, *O. cancellatum* was very common on 26.6.1999. It was additionally recorded on the new part of the 'Ashpits Pond' 22/463012 (26.6.99); at the brackish 'Banc-y- Lord' pond 22/410049 (3.7.99), the Upper Lleidi Reservoir 22/513044 (14.8.99) and Sandy Water Park 22/494006 (14.8.99). Paul Aston (PA) also provided several late July records of this species, including individuals seen at the Pembrey Country Park 'Conservation Pond' 22/397008 and Old Castle Pond 22/499004.

Its congener, the keeled skimmer *Orthetrum coerulescens* is typically a species of upland, base- enriched flushes. Indeed, a single ♂ was seen in such a situation at Cwm Twrch 22/767147 on 3.8.1998 (with 2 black darters *Sympetrum danae*), and also a few days later with some frequency at a pristine little valley bottom, flushed bog at Penlannau 22/673008; the latter site just inside Glamorgan. Several *O. coerulescens* were also observed over spring-fed calcareous flushes in the base of the limestone quarry at Glangwenlais 22/603165 and a

solitary male was on the pfa (pulverised fuel-ash) lagoon SW of Bethlehem Chapel, Pwll 22/471011 on 31.8.98. Two ♀♀ were also recorded at this extraordinary site on 25.5.99 and the species was frequent there on 16.7.99. Another, perhaps unexpected, occurrence of this species was over a coastal *Scirpus maritimus* flush near Ragwen Point, Pendine 22/224075 on 5.8.99.

The Pwll pfa lagoon has been demonstrated to hold an extremely unusual mix of calciphile and calcifuge plants (Pryce, 1999) and the presence of *Orthetrum coerulescens* and numerous scarce blue-tailed damselflies *Ischnura pumilio* suggests too that the invertebrates could be of interest. *Ischnura pumilio* was present at the site when visited on 25.5.99, (including orange immature 'aurantiaca' - phase'), on 29.6.99, and 16.7.99. *Ischnura pumilio* is a damselfly of early successional water bodies; indeed the larvae are said to require shallow water on silty substrates, supporting lower plants or are in primary stages of colonisation by flowering plants - unshaded conditions where high water temperatures are maintained, which enable quick larval development within one year. (Cham, in Brooks, 1997). This species therefore is normally a temporary inhabitant of new water bodies, which are not choked with vegetation, unless management, deliberate or accidental, maintains the requisite larval conditions. It has a dispersive ability to wander to find such appropriate conditions and has even turned up on new garden ponds and upper saltmarsh ponds in Carmarthenshire. When ponds etc are thickly colonised by aquatic vegetation it is out-competed by other damselflies (such as *C. puella*). It is also interesting to note that *Orthetrum coerulescens* has also 'discovered' the Pwll pfa lagoon.

Another species which is currently thriving in SE Carmarthenshire is the hairy dragonfly *Brachytron pratense*, the first hawker-type dragonfly to appear in late spring. An ovipositing ♀ was seen laying eggs simply under floating dead leaves of reed-mace *Typha latifolia* at Machynys Ponds 21/514978, 16.5.98. Other individuals were noted at the fine Berwick Roundabout ditch 21/542987 (good for water voles too!) on 17.5.98 and at the Pembrey Country Park 'Conservation Pond' (31.5.98). Again the plethora of new coastal water bodies has favoured *Brachytron*, as well as other Odonata, including the emperor *Anax imperator*.

The southern hawker *Aeshna cyanea* was observed at a fair number of localities in 1998 and 1999; often typically it was seen as a solitary inquisitive individual along hedgerows or open woodland paths, sometimes even on overcast days. A single black darter was noted by the writer and Graham Motley over a peaty pool SW of Foel Fraith on Mynydd Du 22/749178 (14.8.99). Amongst the many useful records submitted by PA, the migrant hawkers *A. mixta* at Penybedd Wood pond 22/414019 on 7 August and 20 September are noteworthy. Finally of particular interest was his record of a ruddy darter *Sympetrum sanguineum*, a male, which was seen at Machynys Ponds 21/512981 on 1 August.

References:

Brooks, S. (1997) - Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Great Britain and Ireland. British Wildlife Publishing.

Pryce, R.D. (1999) - Pwll Fly-Ash Lagoon - Unique in Britain? Llanelli Naturalists Newsletter 64:6.

DIPTERA RECORDING IN CARMARTHENSHIRE, 1998-99 - I K MORGAN

Rather more recording was undertaken, particularly of the 'Larger Brachycera' (robberflies).

horse-flies, soldier flies etc), during 1999. With the hoverflies, there were several interesting records such as Dave Hemingway's capture of *Rhyngia rostrata* on Laugharne Burrows (22/28-07-) in September 1998. I also noted several of this species (feeding at flowers of herb robert *Geranium robertianum* at Coed Penrhiwiau 22/661237 near Llandeilo on 1.6.99. *R. rostrata* is also, of course, already known from Dinefwr Castle Woods at nearby Llandeilo. The essentially northern and western wasp-mimic hoverfly *Chrysotoxum arcuatum* was seen at three upland sites: Cwm Twrch 22/767147 (3.8.98); west of Ceulannau duon, Brechfa 22/493315 (20.5.99) and Abergorlech 22/583344 (25.6.99).

The blackish aquatic snipe-fly *Atherix marginata* was out, in quantity, on the Afon Llwhchw 22/612082 (the county boundary between Carmarthenshire and Glamorganshire) on 31.5.99. This species has been previously recorded on the Tywi near Llandovery, whilst the same river also supports, further downstream at Dryslwyn, the other member of the genus - *Atherix ibis*. Another visit to the River Loughor (on 6.7.99), yielded the crane fly *Nephrotoma cornicina* ('rare in Wales' - A E Stubbs). The little black robberfly *Lasiopogon cinctus* was frequent at Pembrey Country Park 22/401001 on 10.5.99 whilst the uncommon cleg *Haemotopota grandis* was at nearby Cefn Sidan 22/378025 on 3.8.99. Another - more substantial - robberfly recorded was *Machimus atricapillus*, numbers of which were recorded on a sparsely bracken -covered, horse-grazed ridge south of Garn Farm 22/513141 on 10.8.99. The frequent *Philonicus albiceps*, the hoverfly *Eumerus ornatus* and the silvery therevid *Acronsanthe annulata* were at Ginst Point 22/330079 on 5.8.99; on the same site the small, black conopid *Thecophora atra* was also taken. It was additionally noted near Ragwen Point 22/223075 on the same day.

Probably the most exciting record of the year was the little black-and-yellow soldier fly *Oxycera dives*, swept from a base-enriched flush at Cwm Mihertach 22/787233, near Llandeusant on 25.6.99 and 12.7.1999. Hitherto, this species was only known from upland localities in Scotland and North Yorkshire. Full details of the Cwm Mihertach records have already appeared in the *Larger Brachycera Recording Scheme Newsletter 17* (Summer 1999): 1-2. Another pleasing find was the profusion of the little *Oxycera pygmaea* on a small tufa- flush on the restored former Mynydd Mawr Colliery site 22/547128 at Tumble on 12.7.99.

Two records of interest, previously unreported in the *DIG Newsletter*, are the hornet robberfly *Asilus crabroniformis* at a steep pasture close to Cors Goch, Llanllwch 22/359183 on 19.8.97 (Mike Howe) and Llanwrda 22/725317, 7.7.98 (Rhys Williams). The writer also noted two of this species NW of Crymlyn Farm 21/703966, Glamorgan on 7.8.99; whilst nearby 22/703966 the bot-fly *Gasterophilus intestinalis* and the robberfly *Machimus atricapillus* were present.

There were ample records of the commoner large tabanids - *Tabanus sudeticus*, *T. bromius* and *Hybomitra distinguenda* in summer. The substantial *Tabanus autumnalis* was in profusion within Pembrey Forest 22/233030 and over adjacent cattle-grazed coastal levels on 3.7.99; one specimen of the robberfly *Dismachus trigonus* was also taken in the sandy forest rides.

Evidence of the dispersive ability of the imposing *T. sudeticus* was provided by an individual resting on the front door of the author's home at Coronation Road, Llanelli 21/514999 (in a very urban, built-up area) on 25.8.99; the hoverfly *Sericomyia silentis* (typically a species of wet, acidic pasture) was in the garden on the same morning.

CARMARTHENSHIRE BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS, 1998 - I K Morgan & S Lucas

Butterflies - I K Morgan

As usual, one of the earliest of spring butterflies, the brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni* was recorded from a number of localities (c. 11 sites), mostly in the SE of the county - on the coalfield and on the limestone ridge. It was also seen away from this area at Lovelodge Farm, Ffairfach 22/622213 on 27 Apr. (J. Friese) and additionally at Bryn Hebog, Llanmiloe 22/244084 (Mrs P. L. Owen, PLO). An interesting record was of a female investigating a planted bush of alder buckthorn, *Frangula alnus* in a garden at Denham Avenue, Llanelli 22/495011 on 2 May, a male was also seen close by on 15 May (both J R Ellis). Commas *Polygonia c - album* continue to make a comeback, being noted from some 13 localities, the holly blue *Celastrina argiolus* also did well this year, with records from 16 sites.

Dark green fritillaries *Argynnis aglaja* were at Pembrey Forest 22/391015 on 19 June (IKM), Cwmcoedifor, Rhydcymerau 22/588379 on 1 July (Steve Lucas, SL) and Bryn Hebog, Llanmiloe 22/244084 on 10 July (PLO); the interesting inland record is one of the few recent occurrences away from the coast. Silver-washed fritillaries *Argynnis paphia* were recorded at Brohedydd, Llangynog 22/342179 (20 July, Mrs S. Wynn-Davies). the Afon Gwydderig woodlands near Llandovery 22/805345 (7 Aug, IKM) and at Bryn Hebog (8 - 26 Aug., PLO). The only small pearl-bordered fritillary *Boloria selene* sighting was one near Top Castle, Marros 22/193075 on 20 May (IKM), this probably reflecting an absence of recorders in the preferred Carmarthenshire habitat (flower-rich rush pasture) this year, rather than a real scarcity.

In contrast, marsh fritillaries *Eurodryas aurinia* were reported from four new sites in 1998:

- (i) Pant-hywel, Twynllanan 22/744255, 20 May (R. Smith).
- (ii) Pwllau, Taliaris 22/663296 20 May, (A. Clarke).
- (iii) Cwm Coedifor, Rhydcymerau 22/588379 1 July, (S. Lucas).
- (iv) On the north shore of the Usk Reservoir 22/824294 16 June (S. M. Sankey-Barker).

Marsh fritillaries were additionally noted at a regular locality - Rhos Cefn Bryn (Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve) near Llwyn-teg 22/555074, on 19 July by Janet Crowden (JC) whilst carrying out her regular monitoring of this species.

Another grassland butterfly, the marbled white *Melanargia galathea* is found on more neutral pasture than the marsh fritillary, preferably with areas of rankish grass. Again, it was recorded at Rhos Cefn Bryn NR and also at Waun Garreg, Llanedi 22/589085 - both on 19 July by JC. A very interesting record, of a late individual, is provided by PLO from near Felindre 22/34-38- (on 2 Sept.) in the Teifi catchment. In the *Llanelli Nats. Newsl.* **55**: 45-46 (1993), I reviewed the inland status of this species in Carmarthenshire and listed three Teifi Valley occurrences - at Dollan 22/422409 in c. 1894; Penlan, Cenarth 16 July 1986 and Cwmpengraig, Felindre 22/351372 on 21 July 1991. The 1998 record suggests confirmation of the survival of a population in the area. Marbled whites were also recorded on rough urban grassland at Yspitty, Bynea 21/555983 on 8 July (IKM). Such urban grassland and flower-rich shale spoil tips on the coalfield are, arguably, much undervalued as butterfly habitats, regularly supporting populations of various skippers, small coppers, common blues and graylings. An unfortunate tendency is to grass over such areas or to plant with trees, with a resultant loss of biodiversity.

Small blues *Cupido minimus* were noted at their Pembrey Burrows (21/41-99-) stronghold on 28 Aug (IKM) and earlier, on nearby dunes (22/436003 - Steve Lucas, 23 May).

There were many records of graylings *Hipparchia semele* from various sites on Mynydd Du on 3 Aug (22/76-14- etc, IKM & G S Motley) as well as Mynydd Llangyndeyrn 22/494137 (29 Aug, IKM) and at Rhandirmwyn 22/769428 on 23 July (K. Hyatt); the latter presumably being a wanderer from nearby hillside populations. It was also noted from several coastal habitats (PLO).

Always a nice butterfly to see, the brown hairstreak *Thecla betulae*, recorded at Pwllau, Taliaris, 22/663296 (19 Aug., A.C.) was very noteworthy. This extremely elusive butterfly has been shown to be quite widespread in the county by searching for its eggs on blackthorn, for example, 1971-6 survey work by Dafydd Davies in the Rhandirmwyn area revealing the distinctive white eggs on young blackthorn shoots. Subsequent surveys by others in March 1979 demonstrated the presence of brown hairstreak ova in many 10km squares. However, due to the adults' habit of flying rather high in tree tops records of adult butterflies are irregular. Green hairstreaks *Callophrys rubi* were recorded at Rhos Cefn Bryn NR (JC, 16 May).

In terms of migrant butterflies, there were approximately 17 records of clouded yellow *Colias croceus* (from 20 June, Barney Gill), many records of painted ladies *Cynthia cardui* (from 21 April, J.C.) and numerous occurrences of red admirals *Vanessa atalanta* (from 7 April, D. Foot). The clouded yellows were particularly evident in late Sept.-early Oct., when one of the pale variety *helice* was observed at Machynys 21/508979 (IKM). Sometimes this variety is mistaken for the pale clouded yellow *Colias hyale* by inexperienced observers.

References

Morgan, I. K. (1993) - Notes on the status of the Marbled White *Melanargia galathea* inland in Carmarthenshire *Llanelli Nats. Newsl.* **55**: 45-46.

Moths - S. Lucas

Despite a somewhat wet and generally cool season, 1998 did manage to produce some noteworthy records. Recording was once again confined to a few sites. The excellent work of Jonathan Baker who made a couple of return visits to his parents' home north of Carmarthen, allowed him to carry out several weeks of intensive trapping. To the south, the developing National Botanic Gardens of Wales undertook moth trapping as part of their effort to audit the flora and fauna of the Gardens. They were lent a number of portable Heath traps, and together, these helped to lift the general recording level that would otherwise have been low.

A number of previously unrecorded species from Carmarthenshire were reported, one of which was later discovered to be inaccurate. In the interest of accuracy, all first county records must be accompanied by a voucher specimen unless an experienced recorder has confirmed the identification. For some observers this may represent a conscientious dilemma, which for easily identifiable species can be overcome by taking a good close-up photograph that would demonstrate the distinguishing characteristics. This does not however, mean that unsubstantiated records will have to be refused. Such records will be flagged as being unconfirmed but will not appear as part of any formal report. A complete species list of known Carmarthenshire micro and macrolepidoptera moths is available from the author (please enclose SAE).

Migrants

The first report of migratory moths was arguably the most spectacular when a single death's-head hawk-moth *Acherontia atropos* was reported from Whitland (SN197173) on 9 May by Ian Tillotson. This magnificent large moth is said to emit mouse-like squeaks if handled and records are few, for example at Underhill Farm, Marros in September 1958 (S R Southall). Additionally, prior to this, one of Carmarthenshire's earliest naturalists, Owen S. Wilson recorded the death's-head hawk-moth in his list for 1882 but fails to state where he recorded it from. John Brunker (c. 1950), in his unpublished '*Natural History Notes*' (held at Carmarthenshire Record Office, CDX/259/11) also reported larvae and pupae in potato fields at Llanegwad (SN52). Caterpillars were also noted on potato plants at Bigyn Hill allotments (SS 509999) in 1998 (per IKM). Although this hawk-moth is capable of breeding in Britain, its life cycle is usually interrupted by our cool and generally wet winters.

The rest of the season was generally uneventful with the usual crop of rush veneers *Nomophila noctuella*, diamond backed moths *Plutella xylostella*, and dark sword grass *Agrotis ipsillon* being widely reported, mainly in August. It was in the first week of that same month when two sightings of humming-bird hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum* were received. Both occurred within a day of each other, one from Laugharne Burrows (4 August), by P Seal and then at Llangynog on 5 August, by Mrs S. Wynne-Davies.

Microlepidoptera

No significant records of the microlepidoptera were made during 1998. At Trawsmawr, the third county record for the tortricoid *Acleris cristana*, was made in August, and the beautifully-marked tortricoid *Lozotaeniodes formosanus*, was again taken at Betws. Both are described as being 'Local' but it should not be long before the latter species is recorded across much of the county.

Macrolepidoptera

A reasonable number of species that have nationally 'Local' and 'Notable' status were recorded and those of notable status are detailed below. Some of these can be singled out for special mention. The hawk-moths were especially pleasing with seven different species being noted. Including the two migratory species already mentioned, a single broad-bordered bee hawk-moth *Hemaris fuciformis* was noted in Brechfa. This represents only the second county record although the distribution map for this moth in *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* Vol.9 another record, seemingly for SN62, the origin of which has yet to be traced. Both the adults and larvae feed on honeysuckle, *Lonicera* sp., but the adults will also feed on other nectar sources. Small elephant hawk-moths *Deilephila porcellus* were again evident at Betws (SN641119). At Trawsmawr (SN365238), several very attractive woodland moths of local status were recorded in August. The larvae of the Brussels lace *Cleorodes lichenaria* feeds on lichens, whilst oak *Quercus* sp. is the foodplant for the scarce silver lines *Bena prasinana*, black arches *Lymantria monacha*, and bilberry provides the nutrition for the larvae of the beautiful snout *Hypena rostralis*.

Notable A:

Grass eggjar, *Lasiocampa trifolii*, SN499003, nr Sandy Water Park. Llanelli, 15 August. I. K. Morgan (probably a wanderer from adjacent dunes)

Notable B:

Alder kitten, *Furcula bicuspis*, SN641119, Betws, 23 May, S. Lucas

Bleached plug, *Eupithecia expallidata*, SN365238, Trawsmawr, 19 August, 13 August, 17 August, J. Baker

Broad-bordered bee hawk-moth, *Hemaris fuciformis*, SN518334, Brechfa, 6 May, Mrs B. Thorogood.

Devon carpet, *Lampropteryx otregiata*, SN365238, Trawsmawr, 1-7 June, 9-19 August, J. Baker

Double line, *Mythimna turca*, SN641119, Betws, 19 June, 20 June, S. Lucas

Red-necked footman, *Atolmis rubricollis*, SN641119, Betws, 19 June, 20 June, S. Lucas

Star-wort, *Cucillia asteris*, SN641119, Betws, 28 July, S. Lucas

Waved carpet, *Hydrelia sylvata*, SN365238, Trawsmawr, 4 June, 9 June, 9 August, J. Baker

Recorders

My thanks are extended to all those who contributed their lepidoptera records during 1998.

Mr E. Anscombe

Mr J. Baker

Mrs M. Baker

Dr T. Brereton

Mr A. Clarke

Mr J. Cox

Mr J. Crowden

Mr John Davies

Mr Jim Davies

Mr L. de Whalley

Mr A. Ferguson

Mr D. Foot

Mr J. Frieze

Mr B. Gill

Mr R. Lamb

Mr B. Long

Mr I.K. Morgan

Mr T.L. Morgan

Mrs P.L. Owen

Mr G. Revill

Mr S. Sankey-Barker

Mr P. Seal

Mr R. Smith

Dr R.N. Stringer

Mr I. Tillotson

Mr J. Treharne

Dr M. Warren

Mr M. White

Mrs S. Wynne-Davies

Mr J.R. Ellis

CARMARTHENSHIRE BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS 1999 - I K Morgan & S Lucas

Butterflies - I K Morgan

Two birdwatchers (Rob Hunt and Gary Harper), visiting the small shingle spit at Penrhyngwyn, Machynys on the morning of Sunday 3 October, provided the most exciting butterfly record of 1999. As well as the snow bunting they discovered, they were amazed when a monarch butterfly *Danaus plexippus* put in an appearance, affording good views as it fed at flowers of sea aster *Aster tripolium*. There are only two known records of this spectacular trans-Atlantic rarity - two individuals in a garden at 'The Links', Pembrey on 28.9.1981 and a singleton seen by two other birdwatchers, (that time Clive Jones and Brian Stringer) at the former Burry Port Power Station on 17.9.1983. A few people went down to Penrhyngwyn to try to see this year's specimen, but apart from John Ellis who saw a high-flying individual nearby, all failed (the weather having turned inclement by this time), though compensation was provided by the still present snow bunting. Nick Bowles, writing in British Wildlife (11 No. 2 (Dec. 1999)), attributes the occurrence of the monarchs in Britain to the interception of the southward-migrating butterflies by a hurricane. The first monarch was reported in Cornwall on 21 September, with numbers reported as peaking in late September.

At the other end of the year, there was a comparative glut of brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni* records, it being recorded from 11 sites, principally in the SE of the county, with the earliest records dating from a fine day on 17 March, when males were in flight at Penybanc and Cilrhedyn Peat Workings, Hendy. The fortunes of this butterfly, which typically puts in an appearance in ones and twos from a scattering of localities, is likely to prosper, given the

inclusion of plantings of its food-plant alder buckthorn *Frangula alnus* within parts of the Llanelli Millennium Coastal Park project, as well as in some open-cast coal restorations. The comma *Polygonia c-album* too had a good year, noted at some nine localities including one in a garden at Station Road, Llangennech (R D Pryce) and several in Pembrey Forest (M J White, 10.7.99). MJW also recorded a dark-green fritillary *Argynnis aglaja* in Pembrey Forest on the same date, whilst five were seen vigorously flying around Ragwen Point near Pendine on 5 Aug. (IKM).

In the late winter period, R. Smith undertook a search for brown hairstreak *Thecla betulae* ova; finding these eggs characteristically at the young twig junctions of blackthorn thickets and thus confirming the importance of Carmarthenshire for this rather elusive butterfly. Evidence of ova were found in the following 10km squares: SN21, 22, 41, 42, 52, 53, 72, 73, 74.

Skipper records were represented by dingy skippers *Erynnis tages* at a scattering of localities such as Mynydd Llangyndeyrn and rides within Crychan Forest, whereas the sole records of grizzled skippers *Pyrgus malvae* emanated from Pembrey Forest in May. Green hairstreaks *Callophrys rubi* were observed at ten sites, including regular sightings at the Wildlife Trust's Rhos Cefn Bryn nature reserve near Llannon (Janet Crowden).

If any species did well in 1999 it was the holly blue *Celastrina argiolus*, of which there were no less than 56 records from approximately 30 sites. This rather dainty, often solitary species is often seen in gardens, for its caterpillars feed on holly (spring brood) and ivy (summer brood). Indeed 1999 records include several garden observations - at 57 Station Road, Llangennech and 'Trevethin', Pwll (both RDP); 35 Maesquarre Road (SL), Ty-isaf, Pentrepoeth, Idole (David Poulter) and Dylan Thomas' Boathouse, Laugharne (MJW).

Marbled whites *Melanargia galathea* were regular in their Pembrey Forest stronghold, with other July records from the minor sand dune spit at North Dock, Llanelli; it was also seen at Mynydd Mawr and one near Machynys Ponds. Another regular butterfly on the coastal dune grasslands is the small blue *Cupido minimus*, but most duneland sites were uncensored during 1999, though six and three were respectively counted at Ginst Point and nearby East House near Laugharne on 5 Aug. (IKM). However, Tony Braithwaite provided a *bona fide* and most intriguing record (of a female) from a semi-upland site at Nantyllyn, Bryn Mawr near Ffarmers, and not far from the Ceredigion boundary.

This is not the only inland record from a site without the recognised British food plant kidney vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*, for the small blue has been occasionally noted also at a few other sites:

Capel Dyddgen quarry, SW of Crwbin 22/468127 28.7 1975, (IKM)
Careg-eidon, Mynydd Llangyndeyrn 22/483136 mid-Aug, 1975, (IKM).
Carmel quarries 22/594164 June 1980 (E E Roderick).
Twyn nr. Dryslwyn 22/560223 (Miss D C Holmes).
Pen-ty SSSI 22/483166, 22.8.1988 (IKM)

Presumably at these sites, the caterpillars are feeding on bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*?

As usual, because of the conservation importance of the marsh fritillary *Eurodryas aurinia*, all records are listed in full below:

N. of Ffos-las Farm - 22/452057	1ad.	SL +JC	11.06.1999
Home Covert - 22/444056	6ads.	"	11.06.1999
Home Covert - 22/444056	1 Larva	"	18.10.1999
Home Covert - 22/443056	10 ads.	"	11.06.1999
Home Covert - 22/443056	1 larva	"	18.10.1999
Pinged - 22/423038	1 ad.	"	11.06.1999
Pinged - 22/421036	1 ad,	"	11.06.1999

Additionally, in the early autumn, a larval web survey was undertaken at a few sites by Haydn Torr, (CCW contract staff member). Apart from Treiorwg 22/649205, in the Brecon Beacons National Park, where 18 webs were seen and Caeau Ffos-fach 22/576120 on the coalfield (where a minimum of 229 were counted!), all the other sites had 'nil returns'. These ten or so other sites were mostly in the north or north-mid county and usually where small numbers of adults had been noted in the mid-1990s.

As IKM's main contribution to the Butterfly Conservation's *Millennium Atlas Project*, he surveyed a number of previously known small pearl-bordered fritillary *Boloria selene* colonies in June and July, providing records for the following 10km squares: SN22, 30, 40, 41, 43. 50, 51, 53, 64, 73, 84.

The elegant silver-washed fritillary *Argynnis paphia* was noted at five localities - RSPB Gwenffrwd 17 July (D Smith) and Cwm Crychan 31 July (Tony Braithwaite) in the NE; Dinas Farm, Talog (2) in the West (Steve Lucas, 9 Aug.) And Pembrey Forest (DNW, 10 July) and Stradey Woods - a m 15 Aug (IKM). The latter occurrence is of interest as the last record of this species in Stradey Woods was in the hot summer of 1976 - virtually exactly the same spot!

Acknowledgements

I thank all recorders for submitting their records, either to me or directly to the County Butterfly Recorder, Steve Lucas. I also thank Steve for providing his annual detailed print out of collated records

II

Grid References of sites mentioned in text

- 1 Burry Port Power Station (demolished) - 22/451002
- 2 Cilrhedyn Peat Workings - 22/586035
- 3 Crychan Forest - 22/838401
- 4 Cwm Crychan - 22/821384
- 5 Dinas Farm, Talog - 22/323253
- 6 Dylan Thomas' Boathouse - 22/307113
- 7 East House - 22/309078
- 8 Point - 22/322079
- 9 Machynys Ponds - 21/512981
- 10 Maesquarre Road, Betws - 22/641119

- 11 Mynydd Llangyndeyrn - 22/478126
- 12 Nantyllyn, Bryn Mawr - 22/671493
- 13 Pembrey Forest - 22/406014
- 14 Penrhynwyn, Machynys - 21/517974
- 15 Penybanc - 22/617115
- 16 Ragwen Point - 22/222072
- 17 Rhos Cefn Bryn NR - 22/555072
- 18 RSPB Gwenffrwd - 22/751460
- 19 The Links', Pembrey - 22/43-00-
- 20 'Trevethin', Pwll - 22/477012
- 21 Ty-isaf, Pentrepoeth, Idole - 22/418159
- 22 Station Road, Llangennech - 22/563015
- 23 Stradey Woods - 22/488014

Moths - S. Lucas

Despite the somewhat indifferent weather conditions that seemed to prevail for much of the spring and into early summer 1999, a reasonable amount of moth trapping was managed by several recorders throughout the county. A list of these is provided at the end of this report.

Jonathan Baker once again provided detailed data and took a special interest in the microlepidoptera, of which no fewer than 24 are potential new county records. This is perhaps a timely reminder that all new records must be confirmed preferably by a voucher specimen which can be lodged with the National Museum of Wales. Failing this, confirmation by an accepted expert at the time of collection or by a good photograph showing the salient characteristics will suffice.

The need for accurate records cannot be too strongly emphasised as conservation effort is in part, dependant on a proper account of the distribution and abundance of selected species. A species list of the macrolepidoptera will be provided in the next Newsletter as a guide to recorders.

Another person who has taken an interest in the microlepidoptera, is Paul Aston, who has recently returned from the Far East where he also spent some time looking at this group. The National Botanic Garden of Wales continued a second year of survey work at various stations within their grounds. Moth trapping was also the focus of part of a television documentary chronicling the development of the Gardens screened earlier this year on HTV.

Those active in moth survey work might like to know that the Museum at Cardiff is starting to hold workshops on various invertebrate groups. This year, in conjunction with the *National Plume and Pyralid Recording Scheme*, two workshops have been organised. In March, the first workshop will look at the plume moths and then the following month, there will be one dealing with pyralid moths. Although the production of this report may be too late for readers wishing to express an interest in attending, you might like to give some thought as to which other groups could be catered for eg. the pug moths can be especially problematic. If you have any ideas then please let me know.

Migrants

Migrants were not as prominent as last year. Two sightings were made of humming-bird hawk- moth *Macroglossum stellatarum*, both from Ffarmers (SN671493) by Tony Braithwaite, whilst the dark sword-grass *Agrotis ipsilon*, was recorded at Trawsmawr (SN365238), National Botanic Garden of Wales (SN 5217 5218), and Betws (SN641119) from May to September by John Baker, Lisa Williams and the author. John Baker identified two microlepidoptera migrants; ash bud moth *Prays fraxinella* and the diamond-back moth *Plutella xylostella* at Trawsmawr and the latter was also noted by Paul Aston at Burry Port (SN424015).

Microlepidoptera

As mentioned at the beginning, 24 candidate new county records were made by Jonathan Baker operating mainly from his parents' home at Trawsmawr but also at Kidwelly Quay (SN3906) and at Pembrey Country Park (SN3900). Within this group are the provisional Red Data Book species *Mompha lacteella*, *Phylctaenia stachydalis* and the Notable B *Epinotia demarniana*. *Phylctaenia stachydalis* is stated as being somewhat elusive and hides amongst woundwort *Stachys spp.* often in ditches. Perhaps an overlooked species.

Another Notable B species, *Onocera semirubella*, was recorded at Pwll Edrychiad by R. Pryce, B. Stewart and V. Lewis. This grassland site, is now part of the Cernydd Carmel SSSI and cSAC complex.

Micropterix aruncella at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (16 May, 20 May and 14 June) *

Diplodoma herminata at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (11 June) *

Niditinae fuscipunctella at Kidwelly Quay: J. Baker (8 July) *

Argyresthia mendica (Local) at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (3 June, 11 June, 14 June and 2 July)*

Ypsolopha nemorella (Local) at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (7 July) *

Epermenia illigerella at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (14 June) *

Coleophora atriplicis at Kidwelly Quay: J. Baker (8 July) *

Coleophora maritimella at Kidwelly Quay: J. Baker (8 July) *

Bryotropha desertella at Pembrey Country Park: J. Baker (8 July) *

Scrobipalpa instabilella at Kidwelly Quay: J. Baker (8 July) *

Mompha locuplatella at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (23 May) *

Mompha lacteella (pRDB3) at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (14 June) *

Phalonidia affiniata (Local) at Kidwelly Quay: J. Baker (8 July) *

Olindia schumacherana (Local) at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (2July, 4July, 7July, 8July and 17 July) *

Eana incanana at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (8 July and 13 July) *

Acleris schalleriana (Local) at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (19 September) *

Ancylis unguicella at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (17 July) *

Epinotia demarniana (Notable B) at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (6 July) *

Spilonota ocellana at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (17 July) *

Cydia aurana at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (12 July) *

Eudonia crataegella at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (14 times from 1-17 July) *

Nymphula nymphaeata at Betws: S. Lucas (24 June and 2 August)

Phylctaenia stachydalis (pRDBK) at Trawsmawr: J. Baker & S. Bosanquet (10 times from 1- 13 July)

Achroia grisella at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (8 July) *

Onocera semirubella (Notable B) at Pwll Edrychiad: R. Pryce, B. Stewart and V. Lewis (22 August)

Oidaematophorus lithodactyla at Kidwelly Quay: J. Baker (8 July) *

Macrolepidoptera

Barring those species annotated with an asterisk, there were no significant recordings within this large and varied group. The common fan-foot *Pechipogo strigilata* is, despite its name, a scarce species and one that has only been recorded twice before in the county on both occasions by Barry Stewart (SN533983 and SN435133). It is a moth that inhabits open woodland. Another woodland species, the Devon carpet is also scarce, but one that is recorded periodically across the Carmarthenshire (43 records from 6 - 10Km squares).

An interesting find was the nationally uncommon leopard moth *Zeuzerina pyrina* at Betws (28 July) by the author. This attractive white moth has only been recorded once before in the county at Llandeilo (29 June 1992 SN623222). On both occasions the adult failed to enter the trap but was found resting nearby - this time on a white sheet held behind the trap.

Notable A

common fan-foot *Pechipogo strigilata* at National Botanic Gardens of Wales: Mr. & Mrs. Raymond-Barr (26 July) *

Notable B

Devon carpet *Lampropteryx otregiata* at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (9 times from 10 May to 6 June)

bleached pug *Eupithecia expallidata* at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (8 July, 10 July, 11 July, 15 July and 17 July)*

bilberry pug *Chloroclystis debiliata* at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (13 times from 13 June to 15 July) *

waved-carpet *Hydrelia sylvata* at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (14 times from 14 June to 13 July)

horse chestnut *Pachycnemia hippoacastanaria* at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (18 May) *

red-necked footman *Atolmis rubricollis* at Trawsmawr: J. Baker (14 June)

double line *Mythimna turca* at Betws: S. Lucas (18 June, 24 June and 10 July)

My thanks to the following recorders who provided records:

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Braithwaite, Mr A.
Clarke, Mr A.
Cox, Mr J.

Isley, Miss J.
Lewis, Mrs V.
Lucas, Mr S.
Morgan, Mr I.K.
Poulter, Mr D.
Pryce, Mr R.D.

Raymond-Barr, Mr J.
Raymond-Barr, Mrs M.
Stewart, Mr B.
Treharne, Mr J.
Williams. Ms L.

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ADDITIONAL OLD RECORDS OF THE PURPLE EMPEROR *Apatura iris* AND THE LARGE TORTOISESHELL *Nymphalis polychlorus* IN CARMARTHENSHIRE - I K Morgan

I had the opportunity recently to borrow the 1993 reprint *Llandeilo-Vawr and its Neighbourhood* by Williams Davies, originally published in 1858. In it he refers to the large tortoiseshell (as *P.* or *Vanessa polychlorus*) and, confusingly, the 'Great Tortoiseshell' (for which no scientific name is given). I only know of a c.1860 record for this species (near Kidwelly) and unlocalised records of John Brunner (1940s).

Again, the Kidwelly area provides the only record of the purple emperor (Tytherliege. c. 1860), so it was interesting to read in Davies' book (on p 142 of the reprint), "*When visiting the banks of the river Cothi [SN52], in the month of August, 1857, we had also a most severe run after what we believed to be a Purple Emperor (Papilio iris). Long shall we remember it. The time being about mid-day, and excessively hot....and [we] had to make our way after him Eager though the pursuit was, we had to experience the mortification, of seeing the object of our chase soaring above the highest trees, of what appeared to be an untraversed dingle*". High flying amongst the treetops is a recognised behaviour of the purple emperor.

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CARMARTHENSHIRE COLEOPTERA RECORDS, 1997-99 - I K MORGAN

An early record in 1997 was the ground beetle *Bembidion pallidepenne*, noted under driftwood on the sandy beach at Morfa-uchaf, Ferryside 22/370122 (29 April). Two interesting beetles found in Pembrey Forest were the attractively-marked *Thanasimus formicarius* and the longhorn *Arhopalus rusticus*; both were on an old pine log. Another colourful species is *Staphylinus dimidiaticorus*, a distinctive, large, rove beetle noted in spring sunshine at 'Coedydd y Gam' 22/515145 near Drefach on 31.3.98.

The longhorn *Strangalia quadrifasciata* was seen at Llanwrda 22/718309 (23.7.98) and at Pontyates 22/473083 (2.9.98); on both occasions associated with old alders. Llanwrda also provided records of the 5-spot ladybird *Coccinella quinquepunctata*, a river shingle specialist in Britain, though it also occurs on railway sidings at Llandovery station (227763345) where the dry ballast 'mimics' river shingle. It has also occurred on minor rivers in the county, with one being seen on the banks of the Afon Gorlech 22/575357, within the conifer plantations north of Abergorlech on 15.5.98.

A visit by a group of coleopterists to Tywyn Burrows 22/362046 (8.4.99), David Hemingway *et al* provided a record of the metallic carabid *Lebia chlorocephala*, hitherto only once previously recorded (at Gilman Point near Pendine 22/227074). They also found the 'strandline beetle' *Nebria complanata* under profuse accumulations of driftwood above the saltmarsh at 'Banc-y-Lord' 22/408050; it is regularly seen at the nearby sandy Cefn Sidan beach.

Tony Braithwaite and Johnny Birks, whilst engaged upon pine marten survey work in the immense Crychan Forest, were surprised when their dog discovered an oil beetle *Meloe proscarabaeus*, SW of Craigyrryddon 22/845366, a species which has rarely been noted in Carmarthenshire. Pines beside the lower Lliedi Reservoir, Llanelli 22/516038 yielded the striped ladybird *Myzia oblongoguttata* on 12.5.99, whilst a visit to the pinewoods north of Abergorlech 22/583344 provided a more pleasing surprise for the author on 24.6.99 when *Clytra quadripunctata* was caught in flight near a wood ant *Formica rufa* colony. I had previously deliberately searched for this attractively-marked (orange with 4 black spots) species, but until this occasion, to no avail.

A surprising record was of a single sulphur beetle *Cteniopus sulphureus* - which is normally associated with coastal dunelands - on a partly-revegetated coal spoil tip at Penybanc near Ammanford 22/618115 on 22.7.99; whilst a visit to the sandy spit at Ginst Point 22/322079, provided several sightings of the uncommon tiger beetle *Cicendela maritima*. A small pond at Penybedd Wood 22/414019 held the large water beetle *Acilius sulcatus* on 18.8.98 (det. J Bratton) and the bright green chrysomelid *Chrysomela aenea* was beaten from alders at Allt Rhyd-y-Groes 22/776471 on 17.9.99

A report by the School of Geography and Environmental Science, the University of Birmingham has just been received - **Invertebrates of Exposed Riverine Sediments (phase 2)** - J P Sadler and J E Pitts. Environment Agency R&D Report W - 196, 1999. It contains a mass of beetle records from various River Tywi sites, including many RDB and Notable Coleoptera, which are listed:

R. Tywi near Llandovery 22/754333. 'Site A'. (24 species)

	STATUS
<i>Perileptus areolatus</i>	Na
<i>Amara fulva</i> *	Nb
<i>Lionychus quadrillum</i> *	RDB2
<i>Deleaster dichrous</i> *	Nb
<i>Lathrobium angusticolle</i>	Nb
<i>Neobisnius prolixus</i>	RDBK
<i>Hydrosmeeta thinobioides</i>	N

<i>Hydrosmectina septentrionum</i>	N
<i>Fleutiauxellus maritimus</i>	Na

as above, but 'Site B', those with * and:

<i>Helophorus arvernensis</i>	Nb
<i>Negastrius sabulicola</i>	RDB2
(Also 35 other species)	

R. Tywi, Gwesta, Llanwrda 22/719309 (30 species)

<i>Perileptus areolatus</i>	Na
<i>Lionychus quadrillum</i>	RDB2
<i>Thinobius praetor</i>	N
<i>Thinobius newberyi</i>	RDB1
<i>Hydrosmecta thinobioides</i>	N
<i>H. denticulata</i>	RDBK
<i>Hydrosmectina septentrionum</i>	N
<i>Brachygluta pandellei</i>	RDBK
<i>Fleutiauxellus maritimus</i>	Na
<i>Coccinella quinquepunctata</i>	RDB3

R. Tywi, Ty-pica 22/554206 (24 species)

<i>Deleaster dichrous</i>	Nb
<i>Thinobius praetor</i>	N
<i>Stenus asphaltinus</i>	RDB1
<i>Neobisnius prolixus</i>	RDBK
<i>Fleutiauxellus maritimus</i>	Na
<i>Negastrius sabulicola</i>	RDB2

R. Tywi (Penlan, Capel Dewi) 22/448205 (42 species)

<i>Perileptus areolatus</i>	Na
<i>Helophorus arvernensis</i>	Nb
<i>Deleaster dichrous</i>	Nb
<i>Stenus exiguus</i>	Nb
<i>Neobisnius prolixus</i>	RDBK
<i>Hydrosmecta thinobioides</i>	N
<i>H. septentrionum</i>	N
<i>Fleutiauxellus maritimus</i>	Na
<i>Negastrius sabulicola</i>	RDB2

Please note that all the aforementioned localities are on private land and full permission must be sought; it would also be advisable to contact the CCW Carmarthenshire Office beforehand.

BEES AND WASPS IN CARMARTHENSHIRE, 1999 - I K MORGAN

It was suggested in the last DIG Newsletter (35:1), that 186 or so species of bees and wasps had been recorded in Carmarthenshire. It is pleasing to report that at least 6 additions were

made to the vice-county list in 1999 including one prediction - the handsome 'bee-wolf' *Philanthus triangulum*, a singleton of which was taken at Machynys 21/507979 on 8 August 1999.

Another addition was the large 'media wasp' *Dolichovespula media*, captured at Pembrey Country Park 22/412003, 7.8.99, and also noted frequently a couple of days earlier in the nearby Pembrey Forest by Mark Pavett. The rather scarce *Vespula austriaca* (a cuckoo in the nest of *V. rufa*) was collected by the Afon Llŵchwr 22/612082 (6.7.99) and also at Nant-y-bai, right in the NE of the county, on 27.7.99, where the heather flower-feeding (but apparently local) *Andrena fuscipes* was taken. The Pwll pfa lagoon 22/471011 provided the last two additions - *Colletes similis* and *Nomada rufipes*, both on 14.7.99.

The lovely, orange-legged *Dasypoda alternator* was recorded on 5.8.99 near East House Farm 22/304078, this notable species is already known from Pembrey Forest 22/391010 and Pembrey Burrows 22/397007.

Thanks are due to P M Pavett for help with identifications.

SNAILS IN CARMARTHENSHIRE 1998-99 - I K MORGAN

The new, superb *Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland* (Kearney, 1999) notes the spread of the sandhill snail *Theba pisana* at its Cornish and SW Wales localities, a trend markedly mirrored in Carmarthenshire. I had thought that I had discovered this 'Mediterranean' species new to the country (in February 1997) at the northern part of Pembrey Burrows 22/435002, adjacent to the golf-course, where it was hyper-abundant amongst 'weedy'¹ sand-dune vegetation such as *Raphanus raphanistrum*. However, Mike Kearney informed me that P T Wimbleton had noted this snail, at the same site, in 1993-94. Subsequently, Adrian Fowles provided me with a copy of *The Young Naturalist* (1885), which noted the occurrence of the species (as '*Helix pisana*') at Laugharne - Pendine Burrows, which obviously pre-dates the Pembrey Burrows records! (also ref - DIG Newsletter **37**:21).

The MOD site at Laugharne - Pendine Burrows is, because of very restricted access, exceptionally difficult to access and it seems to mostly lack the disturbed, weedy fresh dunes required by *Theba*, with large areas now scrubbed over. A visit to Ginst Point 22/330079 in early August 1999 yielded no *Theba*, even though the site looked perfect with plentiful *Raphanus* etc. At Pembrey Burrows, *Theba* is doing well on the *Raphanus* - dominated disturbed areas, as well as on more stable parts with dense growths of *Equisetum arvense*. It is also common on the accreting 'Nose' on the southern dune arm of Pembrey Burrows 21/41-99-, but is seemingly absent from the rankly vegetated Tywyn Burrows 22/36-04- etc and open parts of the intervening Pembrey Forest.

I have 5 new 1998-99 records for *Theba*:

- (i) Dolwen Point, Pendine 22/233078, 8.5.98. A few *Theba pisana*, near base of the path, at top of steps down to beach; also *Pomatias elegans*, *Helicella itala* and *Cochlicella acuta*. South-facing Carboniferous Limestone cliffs.
- (ii) St Ishmael 22/362079, 4.9.98. Dune grassland seaward of railway line. *Theba* frequent on growths of *Raphanus*.
- (iii) Llansteffan 22/357110, 4.9.98. Dune grassland. *Theba* common on northern part

only on *Raphanus* next to 'beach houses' and caravans.

(iv) North Dock, Llanelli 21/497991, 19.9.99. *Theba* frequent in restricted patches where growths of rankish *Raphanus* etc; also *Cernuella virgata* and *Cochlicella acuta*.

(v) Machynys 'New beaches' 21/505979, 26.10.99. A few individuals on *Raphanus* behind the beaches (only created with imported sand c. 1994). It is interesting to note that the scarce woodlouse *Armadillium album* has also turned up on this new beach.

Barry Stewart has also informed me of two other land molluscs that should be looked out for in Carmarthenshire, of which he has recently (1999) recorded from Glamorgan - *Hygromia cinctella* at Bishopston Quarry, Gower 21/576896 and *Cochlicella barbara* from Broughton, Gower 21/427910; the latter is already known from Kenfig but only otherwise from the coastal sites in Devon and Dorset (Kearney, 1999). The other Mediterranean species, *Hygromia* is known for many sites in southern England and is spreading rapidly. Barry's record for the latter was the first for Wales.

CARMARTHENSHIRE WOODLOUSE REPORT, 1998 - 99 - IK MORGAN

The longitudinally-striped pill-bug *Armadillidium nasatum* was frequent under rubble at Machynys Cross, Llanelli 21/513985 on 19.7.98; there are other wasteground records of this mostly coastal species in Carmarthenshire. *Porcellis spinicornis*, rather distinctive with its contrasting black head, has proved to be a regular denizen of old mortared walls in urban Llanelli e.g. on walls at Coronation Road 21/514999 10.4.99; at the rear of Murray Street 22/507002 7.5.99 and Furnace 22/502012 18.10.99. Damp, mild evenings are the best times to find it with the aid of a torch.

Oritonus flavus was refound on 13.4.99 at its sole known UK site (apart from some found very close by) - a ditch NE of Dyffryn Farm, Bynea 21/548985, next to the public footpath just north of the A484. A fuller account of its original discovery appears in DIG 29:6. *Armadillidium album* was found under driftwood on a man-made beach at Machynys 21/507978 on 16.10.99. It is, of course, known from the other sandy beaches fringing Carmarthen Bay.

A surprise find was the 'land hopper' *Arcitalitrus dorrieni*, new to Carmarthenshire, in laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* leaf litter below large gardens at Furnace, Llanelli 22/504017 on 10.4.99. It is already known from Glamorgan and Pembrokeshire. This species looks like the well-known sandhopper of sandy beaches, but occurs in woodland and gardens; it is shiny dark brown and jumps with gusto and it often occurs in great quantity where it occurs. *Arcitalitrus* can be expected to spread in Wales.

MISCELLANEOUS INVERTEBRATE RECORDS, 1999

Leaves of columbine *Aquilegia vulgaris*, mined by the agromyzid *Phytomyza minuscula* (det. B. Stewart) were found at Coronation Road, Llanelli. 21/515999 (August 1999). Agromyzid flies (c. 90 species in Britain) are usually minute flies which are leaf miners, with each species having a characteristic mine and tending to keep to particular plants. Many readers, for example will be familiar with the mines on holly leaves, caused by *Phytomyza ilicis*.

A modest amount of harvestmen recording was carried out, with useful records for the recording scheme being gained. Juveniles of *Sabacon viscayanum* were found under a pile of wood and trashings at Tywyn Burrows 22/365049 on 8 April and adults of this species were also recorded at a known site - Pistyll Quarry, Llandybie 22/624167 on 9 September.

RAPHIDIA

The 'snake flies' (which are related to lacewings and scorpion flies) are rarely encountered and there is but one on record in Carmarthenshire - of a larva under oak bark in Dinefwr Park, Llandeilo (KNA Alexander, 1986). It was a great surprise therefore, when an adult landed on the writer's leg, when he stopped at a wood edge lay-by near Pentrebach (SE of Llandovery) 22/816337 on 27.5.99. The captured specimen was subsequently keyed out to *Raphidia maculicollis* (using the AIDGAP key), a widely-spread species associated with *Pinus*.