

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

An unusual habitat for *Hebrus ruficeps* (Thomson) (Hemiptera: Hebridae)

Hebrus ruficeps is characteristically associated with *Sphagnum*, occasionally with other mosses, at the margin of acid water. It spends much of its time within the moss, and is generally collected by sieving or wringing *Sphagnum* or by use of a pond net, but surfaces sufficiently often to be readily captured in pitfall traps. Mr J. H. Bratton and I found *H. ruficeps* in numbers in the extreme upper levels of a saltmarsh at the edge of dunes at Whiteford Burrows National Nature Reserve, Gower Peninsula, Glamorgan (national grid reference SS4495) on 20th May 1988. The saltmarsh is lightly grazed by horses, and almost all the *H. ruficeps* seen were on or beneath old horse dung. Because our visit was early in the year, the decomposition of the dung had been slow, and some may have been of considerable age. I can suggest no reason for the association with horse dung, or for this isolated occurrence of *H. ruficeps* in a saltmarsh. There was clearly an established population on the marsh. The nearest *Sphagnum* area on the Gower is some distance away.

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***Calligypona reyi* (Fieber) (Hemiptera: Delphacidae) on the Gower Peninsula, Glamorgan**

On 25th June 1986 I swept a single macropterous female *C. reyi* from tall vegetation at the transition from saltmarsh to sand dune at Whiteford Burrows National Nature Reserve, Gower (national grid reference SS447950). *C. reyi* is a rare species in the British Isles. Le Quesne (1960, *Handbk Ident. Br. Insects* 2(3)) gives only Weybourne, Norfolk; Seaford, Sussex, and Arne, Dorset. It has since been reported from Bembridge, Isle of Wight (Le Quesne, 1974, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 110: 221) and from North Slob, Co. Wexford (Gillham, 1987, *Ir. Nat. J.* 22: 212–2213). Ossianilsson (1978, *Fauna entomologica scand.* 7(1)) lists plants associated with this species as *Juncus*, *Scirpus lacustris* and *S. tabernaemontani*. The Irish specimens were found on *S. tabernaemontani*, but in Britain it seems usually to have been associated with *Juncus*. Both *Juncus maritimus* and *J. gerardii* were present in considerable quantity in the area at Whiteford Burrows where *C. reyi* was taken. No *Scirpus* was noted in the immediate vicinity. However, since only a single macropter was

found, it is possible that it was a stray from *Scirpus* growing elsewhere on the site.

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