

AUCHENORHYNCHA RECORDING SCHEME

Newsletter No. 8

June 1987

Cicadella
Route de Noirmont
St. Brelade
JERSEY
Channel Isles

I have recently suffered from an attack of iritis (iridocyclitis) which has left some permanent damage to my right eye, which limits the amount of close work which I can do. In these circumstances I feel that I will have to give up the running of the recording scheme as soon as possible. Ideally, I would like to find a volunteer to take this over - the work is not particularly onerous as there are only about fifty contributors. If any of you wish to come forward, please write to me. (The next stage might be a little gentle arm-twisting: if that fails regretfully the Scheme will have to pack up!)

Interesting recent records

On 1st July last year I collected some specimens at Long Herdon Meadow, North Bucks, which proved on later examination to include one macropterous male of Florodelphax paryphasma (the species incorrectly called leptosoma in the 1960 Handbook). It had been taken in the past at Booton Common and Swardston Common, Norfolk, at Dungeness, Kent and at Wimbledon Common, Surrey, but there had been no records for at least thirty or forty years!

Another interesting recent record was Aphrophora alpina (called major in the 1965 Handbook), from Downs Banks, Staffs. by Keith Alexander on 1st August 1985. This species is associated with Myrica gale and was taken previously in Staffs. at Cannock Chase by H.W. Daltry in 1947. Other recent records are Wootton, Isle of Wight (W.A. Ely, 1980) and Hartford Wood, Beaulieu, Hants. (Guy Forrester, 1984). I took it at Wicken Fen in 1957 and 1961, but have not collected there since that date, nor found it elsewhere. It should be noted that a dark form of Aphrophora alni can be found on Myrica gale, which might be mistaken for this species: however it is much less heavily built and the pronotum distinctly narrower.

Walter Le Quesne