

C. (C.) ussuriensis Heikertinger

v.l. 126

More Trigonalis hahnii Spinola (Hym., Trigonalyidae) in Norfolk. — Since recording the capture in the Norfolk Broads in 1980 of a single female of the only European species of Trigonalyidae (1982, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 117: 155) I have been fortunate enough to see more of this rare and interesting insect. Firstly, 8 ♀♀ + 4 ♂♂ were caught in a Malaise trap kindly operated for me by Dr R.J.T. Jarvis in the summers of 1983 and 1984 in a former grazing marsh (in which drainage had been abandoned about 20 years previously so that it had reverted to a rank fen) at TG 379201 near Catfield and within 100 m of where I found the 1980 specimen. One female was collected in June, a male and female in July, and the remaining specimens in August. Secondly, I caught a female at Horsey (TG 470230), some 19 km distant, on 1.viii.1988 at about 17.30 hr in humid overcast weather. This specimen was seen apparently ovipositing near the edge of an upper leaf of *Phragmites communis* Trinius bordering a grazing marsh. At that particular spot the *Phragmites* was confined to a strip scarcely more than a single plant wide that was protected from cattle by barbed wire. The plant on which oviposition (probably) occurred was undamaged, but adjacent plants had been grazed by cattle though apparently not by insects.

It is gratifying to think that *T. hah.* may be reasonably secure in the Norfolk Broads, even if its former widespread distribution in Britain may no longer pertain. Specimens in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) collection come from as far afield as Pembroke (1966), Dumfriesshire (1939) and Derbyshire and Yorkshire (no date but ex. coll. F. Smith, i.e. before 1879). However, having twice collected it "actively" and seen it fairly plentifully from a Malaise trap, I find it hard to believe that such a striking insect is being overlooked today on such a broad front. I am grateful to M.C. Day for access to the BM(NH) collections. — M.R. SHAW, National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1JF: December 28th, 1988.

Supella longipalpa (F.) (Dictyoptera, Blattellidae) new to Staffordshire. — In August 1985 I was shown a colony of cockroaches which was infesting one of the flats in the doctors' residence at Walsall Manor Hospital, West Midlands (vice-county, Staffordshire). They were *Supella longipalpa* (F.) and I was able to collect series of both sexes then and also on subsequent occasions in October 1985 and January 1986. The colony appeared to be limited to a recently built block of three flats, separated from surrounding flats by unheated passages. No sign of the species was found in the hospital itself, although dead *Blatta orientalis* L. were found in one basement. It seems likely that this insect had been introduced to the flat amongst the personal effects of a doctor whose previous post had been in a *Supella*-infested hospital, perhaps in London or overseas. I have never seen this species in other Midland hospitals.

Supella longipalpa is one of our rarer cockroaches, previous records being confined to Devon, London and Sheffield (Marshall, J.A. & Haes, E.C.M., 1988, *Grasshoppers and allied insects of Great Britain and Ireland*, Colchester), although one might assume that it is under-recorded. — JOHN PAUL, 104 Southfield Park, Bartlemas Close, Oxford OX4 2BA: January 13th, 1989.

Intranest copulation in Formica rufa L. (Hym., Formicidae). — On 10.iv.1966, when opening a large nest of *F. rufa* at Shabbington Wood (now part of Bernwood Forest), Bucks., callow alate queens were observed in copulation with fully mature males — none were observed on the nest surface. This was dismissed as an abnormal event caused by disturbance, but on 25.iv.1988 at Wentworth Great Wood, Surrey, the same behaviour was observed immediately with no time for the disturbance to be a cause. Numerous laying queens were present as usual and inbreeding would not necessarily be a problem if nestmates normally copulated, but, in common with other *Formica* and many other ant species, it is unusual for both sexes to be produced within one nest. — A.J. PONTIN, Alderhurst, Box Hill Park, Enfield Green, Surrey TW20 9TY: December 20th, 1988.

P. punctifrons Baly*P. punctifrons* Baly, 1874, *Trans. ent. Soc. Lond.* 1874: 209.

Known from: Japan, S. Ryukyu Is., Taiwan, China (Kansu); Szechuan; Kwangsi; Kiangsu; Hupeh; Anhwei; Chekiang; Fukien) N. Vietnam, Sumatra (Gressitt & Kimoto, 1953). New material: Shensi, Hua Shan, 30.vii.1966, 3000 to 6000 ft., general sweeping, 1 ex., aedeagus examined.

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September 28th, 1979.

Pseudogonolus hahnii (Spinola) (Hym., Trigonidae) in Norfolk. — This remarkable insect is seen so infrequently in Britain that it is worth recording that I took a single female, in fresh condition, as it crawled through low roadside vegetation adjacent to a fen at Catfield, Norfolk on 9.viii.1980. The specimen has been deposited in the Royal Scottish Museum. — M.R. SHAW, Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF: January 7th, 1981.

Acrotrichis chevrolati (Allibert) (Col., Ptiliidae) in Suffolk. — Amongst a large number of Ptiliidae taken from a compost heap in my sister's garden at Ilketshall St. Margaret, Suffolk on 8 August 1980 were two particularly small species of *Acrotrichis* size. Upon dissection they proved to be a male and female *A. chevrolati* a very rare species taken only once before in this century by Mr. Colin Johnson in Yorkshire (Johnson *in litt.*). The only other British specimens are those in the collection of W.G. Blatch at Manchester taken at Knowle and Edgbaston in Warwickshire towards the end of the last century (1967, *Entomologist* 100:132).

Sundt notices that *A. chevrolati*, which is very rare in Scandinavia too, has been found (in large numbers just under the surface of mouldy, very warm compost' and 'on newly laid out fresh poultry manure' (1958, *Norsk Ent. Tidsskrift* 10(4-5):255). My sister's compost heap consists mainly of cow, rabbit and pig dung, much of which was fresh, mixed with straw and grass. I also took many *Acrotrichis* spp. from a much older compost heap consisting mainly of cow dung and straw, in a neighbouring farm yard, but failed to find *A. chevrolati* amongst them.

I thank Colin Johnson for confirming my attribution. — MICHAEL DARBY, 52 Avenue Gardens, London, W3 8HB: November 13th, 1980.