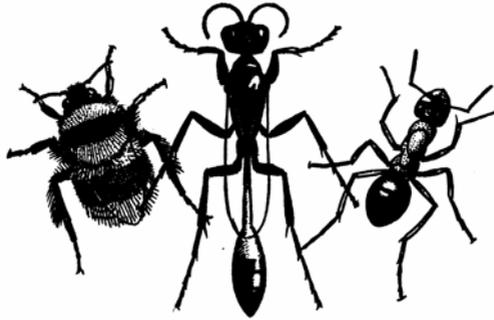


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Further records of scarce and interesting aculeates from southern Britain in 2005

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I appeal again to members from the South to send in their scarce and interesting records for inclusion in the Newsletter. This provides a summary of the year's important records and places them on file for reference by researchers and other interested parties.

The female *Halictus confusus* reported from Swanscombe in the last Newsletter proved to be no more than the common *H. tumulorum*. Good advice is to record *H. confusus* only from dissected males!

Initials of recorders are as follows: ICB – Ian Beavis; LC – Laurence Clemons; GH – Graham Hemington; RIM – Richard Moyses

Lonchodryinus ruficornis. Reported from Tunbridge Wells Common, Kent, in August (ICB).

Anteon exiguum. Found at Tunbridge Wells, also in August (ICB).

Omalus puncticollis. Captured in the RSPB reserve at Newbars Wood, Tudeley by ICB in August.

Chrysis gracillima. From Penshurst and Ashurst, Kent, in July and August, respectively (ICB). There is still little bionomic information for this small ruby-tailed wasp, first found in Britain in 1977. It has been suggested that the host may be *Microdynerus exilis* or *Trypoxylon clavicerum*. A closely related species in North America, *C. verticalis*, cleptoparasitises several *Trypoxylon* species.

Caliadurgus fasciatellus. Reported from Cinderhill Wood, Brenchley, Kent in October (ICB), a very late record.

Priocnemis susterai. Found at Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and Eridge Old Park, East Sussex, both in May (ICB). This scarce pompilid over winters as the adult and can appear on the wing very early in the Spring.

Mimumesa unicolor. From near the River Medway at Hadlow, Kent in August (ICB): an unusual record, being a long way inland.

Stigmus pendulus. Captured in August by LC at Faversham, Kent and from several localities near Tunbridge Wells during the same month (ICB). This small black wasp is now being more frequently recorded but it is not known if this is due to increased knowledge.

Nysson trimaculatus. Found at Cudham School, Kent, in August (LC). This small *Nysson* has proved surprisingly frequent in Kent over the years.

Didineis lunicornis. Reported from 2 localities near Tonbridge in July, (ICB). Widespread in Kent but not common.

Lestiphorus bicinctus. I believe from the Tunbridge Wells garden of ICB, in July.

Hylaeus pictipes. Captured at Rusthall Common, Kent, in July (ICB). See the last Newsletter (Autumn 2005, p.14) for comments on this species.

Andrena alfkenella. From near the River Medway at Tonbridge in July (ICB).

Andrena bimaculata. Found at Pembury, Kent, in early May (ICB).

Andrena minutuloides. From Brenchley and Tunbridge Wells, Kent, both in August (ICB). This is a difficult species to recognise but has proved to be widespread though rare in Kent.

Andrena proxima. Reported from Groombridge, Kent in May (ICB). This bee remains a scarcity.

Lasioglossum nitidiusculum. Found at Shorne Woods Country Park, Kent, in October by GH, det. ICB. *L. nitidiusculum* has become very scarce over the last 30 years, whereas it was recorded with equal frequency to the closely related *L. parvulum* a century ago.

Lasioglossum pauperatum. From two localities at Capel parish, Kent, in August (ICB).

Lasioglossum semilucens. Found at Tudeley Woods RSPB Reserve, Kent and Hargate Forest, East Sussex, both in August by ICB.

Sphcodes miniatus. Captured at High Rocks, near Tunbridge Wells, East Sussex, in May (ICB).

Sphcodes niger. Found at five localities near Ashurst and Tunbridge Wells, Kent, from May to September (ICB). Although this county has long been regarded as a stronghold for *S. niger*, it is being recorded there with increased frequency.

Sphcodes reticulatus. From Palmmarsh, Kent, in September (LC) and from the same month at Pembury (ICB). Bionomic information on this cleptoparasite is still needed: even the host is not known with certainty. The Pembury record is some way from other Kent localities.

Sphcodes scabricollis. Reported from Frant in East Sussex and the RSPB reserve at Tudeley Woods, Kent, in August and September respectively (both ICB). This bee has been found at several localities in the High Weald over the last few years.

Melitta haemorrhoidalis. Captured at Tunbridge Wells Common in July (ICB). This bee is oligolectic on *Campanula* species.

Stelis breviscula. Found at Leigh parish in July and Tunbridge Wells in August (ICB). Cleptoparasite of *Heriades truncorum* and spreading with that species.

Stelis punctulatissima. From Pembury, Kent, in August (ICB). Though widespread in the south, this cleptoparasitic bee is never frequent.

Heriades truncorum. ICB found this rare but spreading bee at two localities in Tunbridge Wells in August.

Nomada hirtipes. From near High Rocks, East Sussex, in May (ICB) but apparently the host, *Andrena bucephala*, was not found there.

Nomada signata. Again reported by ICB, this time from Hawkenbury Cemetary near Tunbridge Wells, in May. The High Weald seems to be a stronghold for the species.

Melecta albifrons. This cleptoparasite of *Anthophora plumipes* was found at High Rocks, East Sussex in May (ICB).

Bombus muscorum. From Sandwich Bay, Kent, in July (LC).

Bombus sylvarum. Found at Faversham, Kent, in July (LC) and reported from Riverside Country Park, also from Motney Hill near Rainham, Whitstable and two sites at Foreness Point, all in Kent, by RIM. The Whitstable and Foreness localities are unusual, indeed.