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### **Polygonia c-album L. (Lep.) in Bedfordshire.**

Following on the original record for the county noted in 1934, *Ent. Mon. Mag.*, 70: 277, individuals of this species were observed at Clophill and on the Hexton hills during July of this year; so that, as with other southern counties, this butterfly is probably to be considered of frequent occurrence in Bedfordshire.

V. H. CHAMBERS.

### **A note on some Hymenoptera bred from a dead willow.**

A dead willow tree at the Biological Field Station of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, Slough, Bucks, was examined on January 10th, 1935. The wood of the tree, which was found to be damp and comparatively soft, was chipped away by means of a pocket-knife. A number of larvae and cocoons were discovered lying in galleries in the wood. The larvae and cocoons were removed from the tree and kept with small pieces of damp wood in glass-top metal boxes.

#### PEMPHREDON LUGUBRIS Latr.

Seven fully-fed larvae of a brilliant orange-yellow colour were removed from the tree. Four of these pupated on January 29th-31st, 1935, and the remaining three failed to pupate. None of the adults emerged properly from the pupae, but fortunately they were not so deformed as to prevent identification. They were identified as specimens of *Pemphredon lugubris* Latr. (Sphecoidea, Pemphredonidae).

#### OMALUS AURATUS (Linné).

One yellow cocoon, with one of its ends somewhat enlarged and flattened, was found. The adult emerged on April 13th, 1935, and was identified as *Omalus auratus* (Linné) (Vespoidea, Chrysididae). This is a well-known parasite of *Pemphredon lugubris* Latr., and is commonly associated with this species.

#### COELOCRABRO AMBIGUUS (Dahlb.).

#### HABRITYS BREVICORNIS (Ratz.).

#### DEMOPHELES CALIGINOSUS (Grav.).

Thirteen greyish cocoons, covered with the remains of the prey consisting of small Homoptera on which the larvae had fed, were removed from the tree. From one cocoon three specimens of the parasite *Habritys brevicornis* (Ratz.) (Chalcididae, Miscogasterinae) emerged on April 11th, 1935. Six specimens of *Coelocrabro ambiguus* (Dahlb.) (Sphecoidea, Crabronidae) the host species, emerged from six of the remaining twelve cocoons, one emerging on April 11th, 1935, and five on April 25th, 1935. From the other six cocoons emerged three females and three males of the rare parasite *Demopheles caliginosus*

(Grav.) (Ichneumonidae, Cryptinae). The females emerged on April 2nd, 1935, and the males on April 8th, 1935.

*Habritys brevicornis* (Ratz.) has been recorded by Saunt (1925) as a parasite of *Coelocrabro leucostomoides* Richards (= *leucostomus* auctt. nec Linn.), and also by Richards (1935) as a parasite of the same host from Hampton, Middlesex. Hallett (1927) records *Habritys brevicornis* (Ratz.) as a parasite of *Clytochrysus chrysostomus* (Lep.) from Glamorgan.

Morley (1907), in referring to *Demopheles caliginosus* (Grav.), says: 'It occurs in June throughout northern and central Europe, but I know of no specific British records, and it was not recognized as indigenous till 1872. There are three males and two females in Dr. Capron's collection, probably captured in Surrey.' In the British Museum (Natural History) there are two females of *Demopheles caliginosus* (Grav.) from Leighton Buzzard dated June 7th, 1906, bred by Crawshay (1907) from the burrows of the wood-boring Cerambycid beetle *Tetropium gabrieli* var. *crawshayi* Shp. With one of these specimens is a cocoon identified by Dr. O. W. Richards as that of a Crabronid, probably a *Solenius* sp. or *Clytochrysus* sp.

One female and one male of the *Demopheles caliginosus* (Grav.) bred at Slough have been placed in the collection at the British Museum (Natural History). The other specimens are in Dr. Richards' and my own collections.

I desire to thank Dr. O. W. Richards for his help in writing this note and for the identification of *Pemphredon lugubris* Latr., *Omalus auratus* (Linné), *Coelocrabro ambiguus* (Dahlb.) and *Habritys brevicornis* (Ratz.), Mr. J. F. Perkins for the identification of *Demopheles caliginosus* (Grav.) and Mr. W. H. Goddard for assistance in collecting the material.

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EDWARD MCC. CALLAN.

#### Two examples of unusual behaviour in Bombidae (Hym.).

While collecting Bombidae at a large patch of *Digitalis purpurea* L. near Newlands Corner, Surrey, on June 30th, 1935, I observed two bees behaving in an entirely different manner from all the others.