

### **Notable British barkfly (Psocoptera) observations in 2007**

The year 2007 turned out to be an unusually poor year for barkflies possibly as a result of the prolonged periods of rain earlier in the year. Species recorded from deciduous tree branches were often restricted to *Valenzuela flavidus* and *Ectopsocus* species while finds on tree trunks tended to be the occasional *Ectopsocus petersi*. Conifers/evergreens however were largely unaffected and frequently had their usual suites of species. Despite the generally poor season several noteworthy sightings were made:

#### **Family Liposcelidae**

##### ***Liposcelis decolor* (Pearman)**

Three female specimens of this species were found under the bark of a plane tree at the entrance to the Victoria & Albert Museum in London on 16.xi.2007 by RES (two of the specimens identified by Charles Lienhard). *Liposcelis* species have been rarely recorded out of doors in recent years but this is likely to be due to under-recording. Further searching of trees with laminated bark may well demonstrate that these tiny creatures are relatively widespread.

#### **Family Peripsocidae**

##### ***Peripsocus consobrinus* Pearman**

Since its original discovery in 1930 this species has only been known from the holotype specimen found in Somerset. The finding of two specimens this year from a Sitka spruce plantation in Scotland has been reported elsewhere in this journal (Saville, *antea* 11-13).

#### **Family Trichopsocidae**

##### ***Trichopsocus clarus* (Banks)**

Although there had only been two published observations from Britain previously, recording this year has shown that this species is actually much more widespread. RES recorded it at seven sites in Dorset and six sites in North Wales between 22.vii.2007 and 2.viii.2007. KNAA recorded it from single sites in West Cornwall, 21.viii.2007; South Devon, 29.viii.2007; and East Gloucestershire, 24.x.2007. Specimens were found on a range of trees and shrubs: yew, holly, elder, blackthorn, willow, an evergreen oak and ivy. The species was also recorded by RES on a yew in a churchyard in Oban on 23.viii.2007. This is the first sighting in Scotland.

Further observations were provided by David Jones who included on a website photographs of a *Trichopsocus* species found on hawthorn in his garden in Aldershot, Hampshire on 8-9.x.2007 (Fig. 1).

Photographs taken of the dissected fore and hind wings of one specimen allowed the species to be identified as *T. clarus*. Michael Kirby also collected a specimen from an oak tree in his garden at Westleton, Suffolk on 4.xi.2007. There are several other likely observations from various parts of southern England but these are currently unconfirmed.

##### ***Trichopsocus brincki* Badonnel**

We previously reported that this species was rapidly spreading across England and Wales (Saville, RE, et al., *Ent Rec* **119**: 113-115). An indication of the speed of this



Figure 1. *Trichopsocus clarus* (Banks). Aldershot, Hampshire, 2007.

Photo: ©David Jones

spread was provided by the finding of the species in the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Scotland. Twenty-one specimens were found by RES on yew and Weymouth pine (*Pinus strobus*) on 16.ix.2007.

#### Family Psocidae

##### *Atlantopsocus adustus* (Hagen)

We can now report that the discovery of this species new to Britain (Alexander, KNA, *Ent Rec* **119**: 76) was just the tip of the iceberg, as continued surveying of coastal cliff sites in Cornwall during 2007 have found it now to be widespread there and in both vice counties. New sites are as follows:

VC1 – Carn Galver, Zennor (SW4236), off sallow, 8.viii.2007; Trevean Cliff, Zennor (SW4136), off sallow, 10.viii.2007; Hudder Down, Camborne (SW5942), off gorse, 15.viii.2007; North Cliffs, Camborne (SW6242), frequent on blackthorn scrub, 15.viii.2007; Chapel Coombe, St Agnes (SW7048), off bramble amongst blackthorn and hawthorn scrub, 21.viii.2007; VC2 - Treluggan Cliff, Gerrans (SW8937), off blackthorn and sallow, 23.viii.2007. Two males of *A. adustus* were caught by MO on 28.vi.2007 on the South Downs about 1 km north of the A27 by-pass over Brighton, Sussex (TQ285089). They were found on hogweed flowers growing up through rank herbage and into the overhanging branch of a hawthorn bush. The identification of the specimens was confirmed by RES from wing and hypandrium photographs. This represents a significant extension to the known range of the species in England.

##### *Blaste quadrimaculata* (Latreille)

A single male of this rare species was found at rest on a wooden panel fence in KNAA's garden at Heavitree, Exeter (SX9492) in S. Devon, 23.ix.2007. Searching the rest of the fence and beating the various woody plants present revealed no further specimens. An earlier unpublished record by MO has recently come to light. A specimen was found on 4.ix.2003 on top of a 5 storey Victorian block of flats on a reasonably lichen covered skylight, in the middle of Hove, Sussex, near the sea front.

KNAA's fieldwork was commissioned by the National Trust Devon and Cornwall Region and by the People's Trust for Endangered Species. Thanks go to David Jones for providing the photograph of *Trichopsocus clarus*.— R. (BOB) E. SAVILLE, 20 Downfield Place, Edinburgh EH11 2EL (Email: bob@lothianwildlife.co.uk), KEITH N. A. ALEXANDER, 59 Sweetbrier Lane, Heavitree, Exeter EX1 3AQ (Email: keith.alexander@waitrose.com) and MARCUS OLDFIELD, 33 Dene Vale, Brighton BN1 5ED (moldbug3@ntlworld.com)