

Orthoptera and allied Insects Recording Scheme of Britain and Ireland

grasshoppers crickets stick-insects earwigs cockroaches mantids

www.orthoptera.org.uk



Newsletter 31, Autumn 2014

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1. Orthopterists' Meeting

Everyone is very welcome to attend the annual Orthopterists' meetings, whether to present research or just to listen and meet others. This year's meeting will be held in the Neil Chalmers Room at the London Natural History Museum on **Wednesday 5th November 2014**. Among many interesting contributions we are particularly pleased to have talks from Nathan Bailey on the evolution of silence in crickets (www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-27592656), and from Mike Edwards on the conservation of the Field Cricket in Britain, including a look back on the reintroduction project.



Programme

- 1:30 Arrival and tea
- 2:05 Nathan Bailey (University of St Andrews): A tale of two crickets: demystifying the repeated loss of song
- 2:45 Karim Vahed (University of Derby): Notes on the life cycle of the Scaly Cricket, *Pseudomogoplistes vicentae*

- 3:05 Luc Willemse (Naturalis Biodiversity Center Leiden): The Orthoptera collection at Naturalis: using a taxonomic inventory to integrate collections
- 3:20 Björn Beckmann (Biological Records Centre): A new mobile phone app for identifying and recording grasshoppers and related species
- 3:35 Break
- 4:05 Mike Edwards: Status and conservation of the Field Cricket, *Gryllus campestris* in Britain
- 4:35 Paul Brock (Natural History Museum): Recent observations of the stick insects (phasmids) of Britain, particularly on the Isles of Scilly
- 4:55 Peter Sutton (Orthoptera Recording Scheme): A new Red List: reassessment of the threat status of British and Irish Orthoptera
- 5:20 Peter Sutton & Björn Beckmann (Orthoptera Recording Scheme): Brief update on the new atlas of grasshoppers & allied insects
- 5:30 Drinks, followed by supper
- 8:00 Finish

Posters / displays

- Jon Delf (University of Liverpool): Diapause and parthenogenesis in coneheads, *Conocephalus* spp.
- Roger Hawkins: Two French bush-crickets reared in captivity
- Paul Brock: Discounted copies of Paul's new book, 'A Comprehensive Guide to Insects of Britain and Ireland' – for £20.00 (usually £28.95), www.naturebureau.co.uk/bookshop/a-comprehensive-guide-to-insects-of-britain-and-ireland-detail. Anyone likely to want a copy please e-mail Paul in advance at pauldbrock@btinternet.com.

Registration

Please register by sending an email to orthoptera@ceh.ac.uk, or by post to Björn Beckmann, Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Wallingford OX10 8BB, providing the following details:

- your first name, surname and institution if applicable (for name badge)
- title of talk or poster, if you would like to present something (there is still room for one or two contributions)
- indicate whether you will be staying for the buffet or not, and any special dietary requirements

Cost

- Either a full price of £14.00 to include a cold buffet with wine, and tea and biscuits during the afternoon
- Or a reduced price of £4.00 to include tea and biscuits only, if you are not staying for the buffet.

Payment

- either send a cheque made payable to the Royal Entomological Society to: Kirsty Whiteford, Royal Entomological Society, The Mansion House, Chiswell Green Lane, St Albans, Herts, AL2 3NS
- or pay by bank transfer: Royal Entomological Society, sort code 30-97-25, account number 01921533. Please ensure that you include your name and "Orthoptera SIG" for reference.
- or pay by card over the phone. Please phone Kirsty on +44 (0)1727 899387. There is a 2% admin charge for credit cards, no charge for debit cards.

Directions – **NOTE: DIFFERENT ROOM FROM PREVIOUS YEARS**

The meeting will be held in the **Neil Chalmers Room** in the Natural History Museum London. Use the Cromwell Road entrance into the Central Hall; walk past *Diplodocus* and turn left/west into Waterhouse Way to the Darwin Centre; continue down the steps by the Cocoon, then turn right and walk towards the steps at the north end; on the left, under these steps is the door into the Neil Chalmers Room and reception area, where refreshments will be served before/during the meeting. In the evening, the Cromwell Road entrance is locked at 6pm; if you leave after this time you must be escorted through locked doors, or incur the wrath of Security!

Hope to see you there!



2. Records received in 2014 and progress with new atlas

A big thank you to all who have sent in their observations this year – please continue to do so. We have had some issues with the website and apologise for delays in processing records. Photo upload is currently not possible at www.orthoptera.org.uk/recording – please use www.brc.ac.uk/irecord instead for the moment (records submitted on either website will be visible on the other).

The Orthoptera column in *British Wildlife* gives highlights of observations through the summer and autumn.

Work on the new atlas of grasshoppers and related insects in Britain and Ireland is progressing and it should be on course for publication in 2015. A set of working draft maps were appended to the Spring 2013 newsletter, which you can download at www.orthoptera.org.uk/recording/sites/default/files/Grasshoppers_and_related_insects_Newsletter_Spring_2013.pdf. We hope the maps illustrate some of the dramatic changes affecting Orthoptera and will inspire you to fill gaps in recording.



There are many ways of submitting your records:

- Log your observations online at www.brc.ac.uk/irecord or http://records.biodiversityireland.ie/standard_form.php?fk=GrasshoppersCricketEarwigsStandard
- Use your mobile phone to record your observations – see the Spring 2013 newsletter for details
- If you have records in a digital format like Excel, Recorder, or MapMate, please email them to orthoptera@ceh.ac.uk or info@biodiversityireland.ie.
- If you have records on paper recording cards, please send them to one of the following addresses:

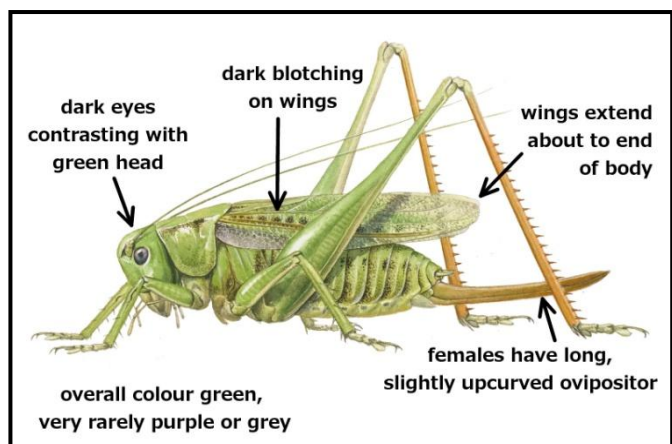
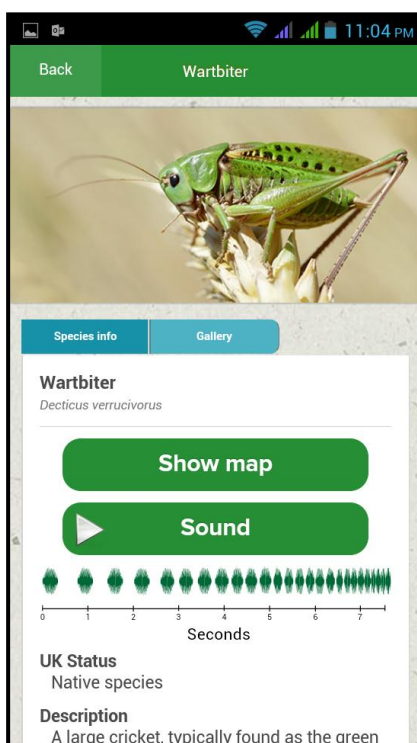
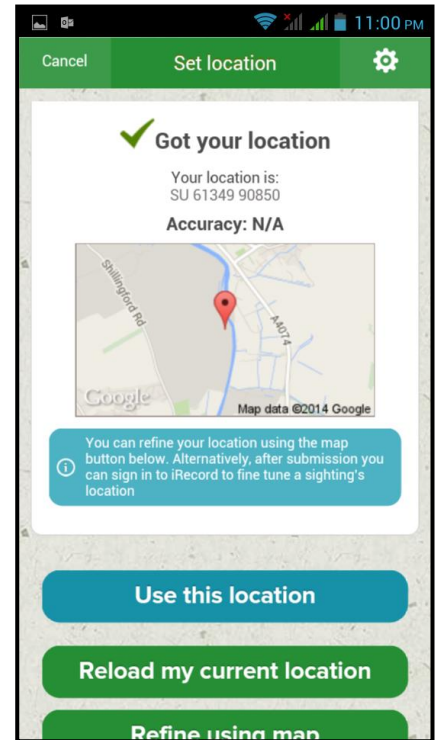
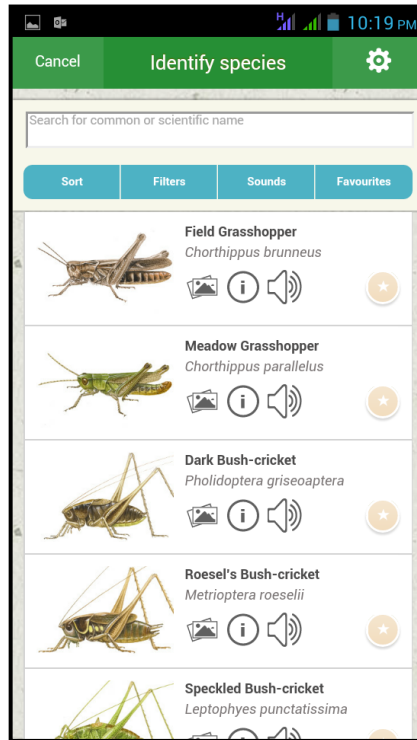
| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Biological Records Centre | National Biodiversity Data Centre |
| Centre for Ecology & Hydrology | Beechfield House |
| Wallingford | Carriganore WIT West Campus |
| OX10 8BB | County Waterford |
| UK | Ireland |
- If you send your records centrally to the scheme in any of the above ways, they will be shared with county recorders and Local Record Centres. Similarly, if you send your records to your county recorder, there is no need to send them in any other way.
- Observations of stick insects can also be submitted to the excellent Phasmid Study Group - <http://phasmid-study-group.org/content/Report-UK-Phasmid-Sightings>, we exchange data.



3. New mobile phone app “iRecord Grasshoppers”

We are very excited about the development of a dedicated mobile phone app for identifying and recording grasshoppers and related insects in Britain and Ireland. The app is being developed by the Biological Records Centre in collaboration with Natural Apptitude Ltd. It is nearing completion and is currently being tested. It will be released in spring 2015 for Android and iOS devices. The app comprises a field guide with species accounts, identification tips, photos, labelled illustrations and sound recordings, and allows submission of single- and multiple-species sightings to the iRecord system www.brc.ac.uk/irecord. We are very pleased to be using Denys Ovenden’s (www.denysovenden.co.uk) excellent species illustrations originally produced for the “Marshall & Haes” atlas. If you are interested in helping with testing the app please email Björn at orthoptera@ceh.ac.uk.

For other apps including for mammals, butterflies and ladybirds see <http://naturelocator.org>.



4. County Recorders

We are very grateful for the excellent work of county Orthoptera recorders and would like to put a full list with contact details on the scheme website www.orthoptera.org.uk. There is a provisional list of current county recorders below – please let us know about any omissions, corrections, and offers of taking on vacant counties! Any county recorders interested in helping with verification of online records (who are not doing so already) please email orthoptera@ceh.ac.uk.

| Vice County | County Orthoptera Recorder |
|---|--|
| VC 3+4 Devon | Adrian Colston |
| VC 5+6 Somerset | Robert Cropper |
| VC 7+8 Wiltshire | Catherine Hosie |
| VC 9 Dorset | Richard Dickson / Ian Cross / Bryan Edwards? |
| VC 11+12 Hampshire | Lizzy Peat |
| VC 13+14 Sussex | John Paul and Ralph Hobbes |
| VC 15+16 Kent | Richard Moyse |
| VC 17 Surrey | David Baldock? |
| VC 18+19 Essex | Tim Gardiner |
| VC 20 Hertfordshire | Ian Carle |
| VC 25+26 Suffolk | Stuart Ling |
| VC 27+28 Norfolk | David Richmond |
| VC 30 Bedfordshire | Kevin Sharpe |
| VC 33+34 Gloucestershire | John Widgery |
| VC 37 Worcestershire | Gary Farmer |
| VC 39 Staffordshire | Andy Jukes |
| VC 40 Shropshire | David Williams |
| VC 44 Carmarthenshire | Ian Morgan |
| VC 45 Pembrokeshire | John Steer |
| VC 53+54 Lincolnshire | Brian Redman |
| VC 55 Rutland / Leicestershire | Phil Rudkin |
| VC 56+57 Nottinghamshire + Derbyshire | Roy Frost |
| VC 58 Cheshire | Paul Hill? |
| VC 61-65 Yorkshire | David Chesmore |
| VC 71 Isle of Man | Richard Selman |
| VC 91-95 Aberdeenshire and surroundings | Michael Marquiss |



Obituary to E.C.M. Haes, BSc FRES, 1930–2014

by Peter Sutton. As published in the *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History*.

Edward Christopher Mount Haes, known to all as Chris Haes, was born in Bermuda on 1st February 1930. He spent the early part of his life in Australia where his interest in natural history was first kindled and he developed a particular enthusiasm for the Orthoptera, a group for which he would later become a leading expert in the UK.

Chris attended Wye College (University of London) and obtained a BSc in Horticulture in 1952, going on to work for the Sports Turf Institute. This was followed by a stint as a technical adviser for a commercial fertiliser company, before firmly establishing himself at the plant health service for MAFF, where he remained for many years until his retirement in 1987. During those intervening years, his interest in orthopteroid insects saw him become heavily involved in the national recording scheme, and he became the organiser for the Orthoptera Recording Scheme in 1977, editing the second edition of the Provisional Atlas of British Orthoptera, which was published in 1979 by the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology. Chris worked closely with Dr David Ragge and Mrs Judith Marshall from the Department of Entomology at the Natural History Museum. His work with Judith, and the illustrator, Denys Ovenden, culminated in the production of *Grasshoppers and Allied Insects of Britain and Ireland*, which was published by Harley Books in 1988 and was the first definitive work on this group of insects since Ragge's authoritative publication in 1965.

After the sad loss of his wife, Jane, to whom he had been married for ten years, Chris moved to Cornwall and pursued his two great interests, entomology and gardening. He was a founder member of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Federation of Biological Recorders (CISFBR), and made a significant contribution to the wildlife recording of this region, regularly contributing to literature with publications such as the Cornish Biological Records No. 12 *Grasshoppers and Related Insects in Cornwall*, and worked closely with Adrian Spalding (editor) and Malcolm Lee on the first and second Red Data Books for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Chris was a member of the British Entomological and Natural History Society in the late 1980s. Chris continued to coordinate the Orthoptera Recording Scheme for Britain and Ireland, providing regular updates through the Scheme newsletter and his column in *British Wildlife* magazine. His time at the helm of the recording scheme concluded with the production of a comprehensive set of updated distribution maps in the Atlas of grasshoppers, crickets and allied insects in Britain and Ireland, which he and Paul Harding prepared for publication in 1997, before handing over the reins to John Widgery.

Chris had a wonderful ability to communicate through his writing, and wrote a number of other books including *Winter Colour in the Garden* (1965) and *Bulbs for Small Gardens* (1967). His flair for natural history writing was exemplified during his time as a leading figure in the Sussex Trust for Nature Conservation, when he produced the first authoritative natural history for the county of Sussex. *The Natural History of Sussex* (1976) was described at the time as being, "... abundantly illustrated, attractive... covers every aspect of the subject... written with verve, (and) it holds the reader's interest throughout." This publication, in essence, summed up Chris's all-encompassing approach to the study of natural history, and alluded to the overall connectivity and interdependence between animals, plants, and their habitats. Indeed, a common theme in many of the anecdotes provided by those who have enjoyed his company has been his impressive ability to find a species, explain with interest the other species that are likely to be associated with it, and subsequently point them out as they are discovered in the immediate vicinity!

On a personal level, Chris was an outstanding naturalist who was always ready to share his knowledge with others. His enthusiasm and willingness to support those who were interested in the natural world, particularly the world of entomology, was particularly evident through his correspondence, at the many field and society meetings that he led, and in the lectures that he delivered to various groups of horticulturalists and naturalists. I have often wondered what path I would otherwise have taken in the absence of that guidance and support, having first corresponded with Chris as a (bolshy) teenager regarding the discovery of a Field Cricket *Gryllus campestris* behind a sandy beach at Shoeburyness in Essex. As I progressed, eventually taking over from John Widgery as the Orthoptera Recording Scheme organiser, Chris always took the time to send his characteristic, enthusiastic and semi-legible postcards of support and encouragement whenever appropriate opportunities arose. It has been a privilege to walk in his footsteps. It is not an understatement to say that without his involvement, we may have lost one of our most recognisable harbingers of summer, the Field Cricket, and our detailed knowledge of native and introduced orthopteroid insects would be considerably less advanced. Chris had a genial personality and a wicked, if not mischievous, sense of humour. He was fun to be with and as one of those rare 'all-rounders', his knowledge of horticulture and natural history will be sorely missed, as will his company. Chris died peacefully, aged 84, on 11th June 2014 at the Trewartha Care Home in Carbis Bay, Cornwall. In the words of one of his closest friends, "We are the richer for having known him." Malcolm Lee is thanked for providing the photograph of Chris inside the Humid Tropic Biome at the Eden Project, Bodelva, Cornwall.



6. Media

Matt Brierley of the BBC produced a very enjoyable and informative piece about the northward spread of Roesel's bushcricket and long-winged conehead for the Earth website:

www.bbc.com/earth/story/20141001-cricket-coming-on-in-leaps-bounds.



7. Next Issue

Please send us your contributions for the next issue of this newsletter. Any news items, dates of identification courses, suggested speakers for next year's Orthopterists' meeting, etc. etc.!

For news in the meantime please see the Orthoptera column in *British Wildlife* or visit the website forum www.orthoptera.org.uk/Recording/forum.

Björn Beckmann and Peter Sutton

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