

breadth throughout, a humeral line, and the under-side of the abdomen on the posterior three-quarters of the third segment, all bronzy-green.

I do not know the *Agrion Maderæ* of De Selys Longchamps.

Nos. 17 ♂; 18 ♀; 19 ♀, var.

(To be continued).

NOTES ON BRITISH FORMICIDÆ.

BY FREDERICK SMITH, V.P.E.S.

The present communication will probably be regarded as being very nearly allied to an advertisement; it has, however, a definite entomological object in view, that of seeking to increase our knowledge of the British species of the *Formicidæ*.

In the year 1851, our list of ants numbered eighteen species; the list has since that period been swelled to nearly double that number, it having increased to thirty-two. I feel confident that several additions may be made, if Entomologists living in distant localities can be induced to collect sets of ants during the present season, at such times as the winged sexes are observed in the nests. The discovery of an additional species the other day at Sandown, near Deal, induces me to appeal to brother Entomologists, and to request that they will be kind enough to collect some of these insects at such times as I have indicated above; particularly the smaller species; always being careful to keep each species separate, and carefully labelled as to the situation in which they were found, with the date of the month, &c. Any one visiting Scotland would be sure, I believe, to add to our list by attending to my suggestions. Many, I dare say, imagine that we have only one species of hill ant—by which I mean ants that erect nests composed of bits of stick, leaves, straws, &c., like those of the well-known wood ant; I take three species from such nests, and we may expect to find at least three others. There are also two or three species that will probably be found under bark, or in the dead stumps of trees, and others that do not construct nests of their own, but are found living in perfect harmony in the nests of other species; these are usually minute insects; two are found in the nest of the wood ant on the Continent, we have only as yet obtained one of them in England. A good plan for finding them is to soak an old rotten board in water, and then to place it against an ant hill; if occasionally examined, the little parasitic ants, may be expected to be found beneath the board, attracted by the moisture. Myrmecophilous *Coleoptera* will also be occasionally found.

I subjoin a list of the British ants, indicating the situation of the nest, the date when the species usually swarm, and the localities known for some of the rarer species.

Localities—G D Generally Distributed.

Date of Swarming.
E end.
B beginning.

Situation of Nests, &c.

SPECIES.

<i>Formica rufa</i>	Woods. Erected on ground	May—E	G D
<i>congerens</i>	Ditto ditto	August—B	Bournemouth, Loch Rannoch
<i>sanguinea</i>	In banks, trunks of trees, &c.	August	Croydon, Weybridge, Hawley Hants
<i>exsecta</i>	Open commons, pastures, &c. Built on the ground	July	Bournemouth
<i>cunicularia</i>	In banks, particularly if of clay; in stumps	July	G D
<i>fusca</i>	In the ground, banks, &c.	August	G D
<i>fuliginosa</i>	In decaying trunks of trees, rarely in banks	May—E	G D
<i>brunnea</i>	In the ground	Unknown	Deal
<i>nigra</i>	In the ground	August—E	G D
<i>aliena</i>	In the ground	August—E	Deal
<i>umbrata</i>	Raises little hillocks of earth	August—E	G D
<i>flava</i>	Ditto ditto	Unknown	G D
<i>Tapinoma erraticum</i>	In the ground	Unknown	Weybridge, Bournemouth, Coombe Wood.
<i>polita</i>	Unknown	Unknown	Bournemouth
<i>Ponera contracta</i>	In the ground, under stones, &c.	Unknown	G D
<i>punctatissima</i>	In houses, bakehouses, and hot-houses	Unknown	London
<i>Myrmica ruginodis</i>	In the ground, stumps of trees	September	G D
<i>scabrinodis</i>	In the ground, &c.	September	G D
<i>lævinodis</i>	In the ground	September	G D
<i>sulcinodis</i>	In the ground	September	Scotland
<i>lobicornis</i>	In the ground	August	Dover, &c.
<i>Tetramorium cespitum</i>	On the ground, in tufts of grass, &c.	August	Lowestoft
<i>hippula</i>	In the nest of <i>F. fuliginosa</i>	Sept. and Oct.	Higgate
<i>Leptothorax acervorum</i>	Under bark, &c.	August	Shirley Common, &c.
<i>Nylanderi</i>	In stumps of trees, &c.	August	G D
<i>simillima</i>	In hot-houses	Unknown	Dorsetshire
<i>unifasciata</i>	In dead wood, &c.	Unknown	Isle of Wight
<i>Stenamma Westwoodii</i>	In nests of <i>F. rufa</i>	Unknown	Weybridge
<i>Diplorhoptum fugax</i>	Under ground	September	Southend
<i>molestum</i>	In houses	August	London, Brighton, &c.
<i>Pheidole lævigata</i>	In hot-houses	Unknown	Exeter,—The Borough, London
<i>Myrmecina Latreillii</i>	Unknown	Unknown	Isle of Wight, and near London

* * The fresh addition to the list, is the *Formica aliena*, Foerster, a species very closely resembling *F. nigra*, but retained as distinct by Foerster, Mayr, and Roger; Nylander does not sink the species, but questions whether the slight differences between it and *F. nigra* are sufficient to constitute a species. The differences consist in its being always smaller, and usually of a paler colour; and in the antennæ and legs being devoid of the long hairs always found on those parts in *F. nigra*; the head of *nigra* is also wider. As *F. aliena* does not appear in the winged state before the latter part of August, I only obtained workers; the species is not at all rare on the sand-hills near Deal.

British Museum.

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *SYSTELLONOTUS TRIGUTTATUS* (A HEMIPTEROUS INSECT) IN COMPANY WITH *FORMICA FUSCA*.

BY J. W. DOUGLAS.

This species, which is not accounted rare throughout Europe, has seldom been found in England. There were one or two in the collections of Mr. Stephens and Mr. Curtis, and Mr. Dale has taken one or two, but all are males; the female has not been seen in England, and but rarely on the continent, being sub-apterous it has doubtless been overlooked. The males have dark brown elytra, with two broad, snow-white bands across them, sharply defined as if inlaid, like the markings in the fore-wings of some species of *Lithocolletis*; the females have only rudimentary elytra.

The beauty of the creature had impressed me, and ever since I began to collect *Hemiptera*, I have been on the look out for it, searching often under heath, where it is said to occur, but with such want of success that I almost despaired of getting it. However, on the 7th instant, at Weybridge, the sun shining brightly, I turned up a branch of a small plant of broom that was lying close to the bare ground, and I was electrified at the sight of a living beauty. After a diligent search under the small broom bushes I got 50, of which 20 were females.

In the ground under the bushes, colonies of *Formica fusca** had made their burrows, and numbers of the ants were running about. *Systellonotus* (male, female, and pupa,) were running with them, and in like manner, in most tortuous courses, never resting for an instant. I had thought that an ant ran quicker than any other insect, but *Systellonotus* ran absolutely faster. *Myrmedonia* and *Salda* may be accounted the Olympic runners of Insectdom, but they would stand no chance in

* For the name I am indebted to Frederick Smith, Esq.