

**THE DISTRIBUTION OF NATIVE  
DICTYOPTERA IN SUSSEX**

By E. C. M. HAES

*Sussex Trust for Nature Conservation*

The Dusky Cockroach, *Ectobius lapponicus* (L.), Tawny Cockroach, *E. pallidus* (Olivier), and Lesser Cockroach, *E. panzeri* Stephens have all been found in Sussex during the course of the present survey of native Orthoptera in the country, carried out by the writer during 1965-71.

The survey of these native Cockroaches is being conducted in exactly the same way as that for the other Orthoptera: the records are based on the tetrad unit (a 2×2 kilometre square), and the remarks concerning habitats, the extent of the distribution survey and the identification of the species, made in the writer's forthcoming paper on the Saltatoria, likewise apply here.

All three species appear to be local insects in Sussex. The Lesser Cockroach has so far only been found in a single coastal locality in East Sussex. The Dusky and Tawny Cockroaches are quite common in an area of wooded or heathy country (mainly on sandy soil) between Arundel (on chalk) and Midhurst; largely contained within the 10 km square 41 (SU)/91. Only small colonies of either species have been found away from this locality, and neither species has proved at all easy to locate in East Sussex, where the Dusky Cockroach has been found on North Common, Chailey and the Tawny Cockroach in the Ashdown Forest.

None of these Cockroaches appears to have been more common or widespread earlier in the century, judging by the records given by Lucas (1920) or the specimens in the Guermonprez collection in the Bognor Regis museum. It is, however, interesting to note that the Rev. E. N. Bloomfield of Guestling recorded Lesser Cockroach at Camber Sands at the end of the last century, where it still persists in its only known Sussex locality.

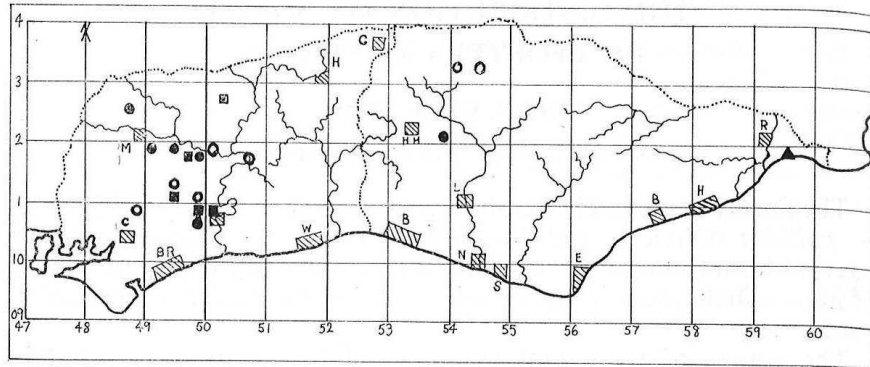
BLATTIDAE (Cockroaches)

1. *Ectobius lapponicus* (Linnaeus) (Dusky Cockroach)

This species has been found in coarse, tussocky grass and scrub, both on heathland and in woodland or plantation rides and clearings. Ambersham Common; Coates, and Rewell Wood near Arundel, are especially good localities for the insect, which has been found in the mature state from the last week of May until late September.

2. *E. pallidus* (Olivier) (Tawny Cockroach)

In Sussex the Tawny Cockroach has so far been found most often on or near birch trees, particularly on sandy soil, rather than on



#### Tetrad distribution of Dictyoptera

*Ectobius lapponicus* (L.) ●; *E. pallidus* (Olivier) ○; Both species ■; *E. panzeri* Stephens ▲.

open heathland. During the present survey it has been found only in small numbers in any locality, unlike the Dusky Cockroach, which has been seen in considerable abundance in the places mentioned. Neither species has yet been found on the Sussex coast.

#### 3. *E. panzeri* Stephens (Lesser Cockroach)

Quite plentiful at Camber Sands, under sea pea (*Lathyrus japonicus*) or in clumps of coarse grass. Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Foord and the writer found Lesser Cockroach in shingle near Open Pits at Dungeness, but despite a search in several places it has not yet been found on coastal shingle in Sussex.

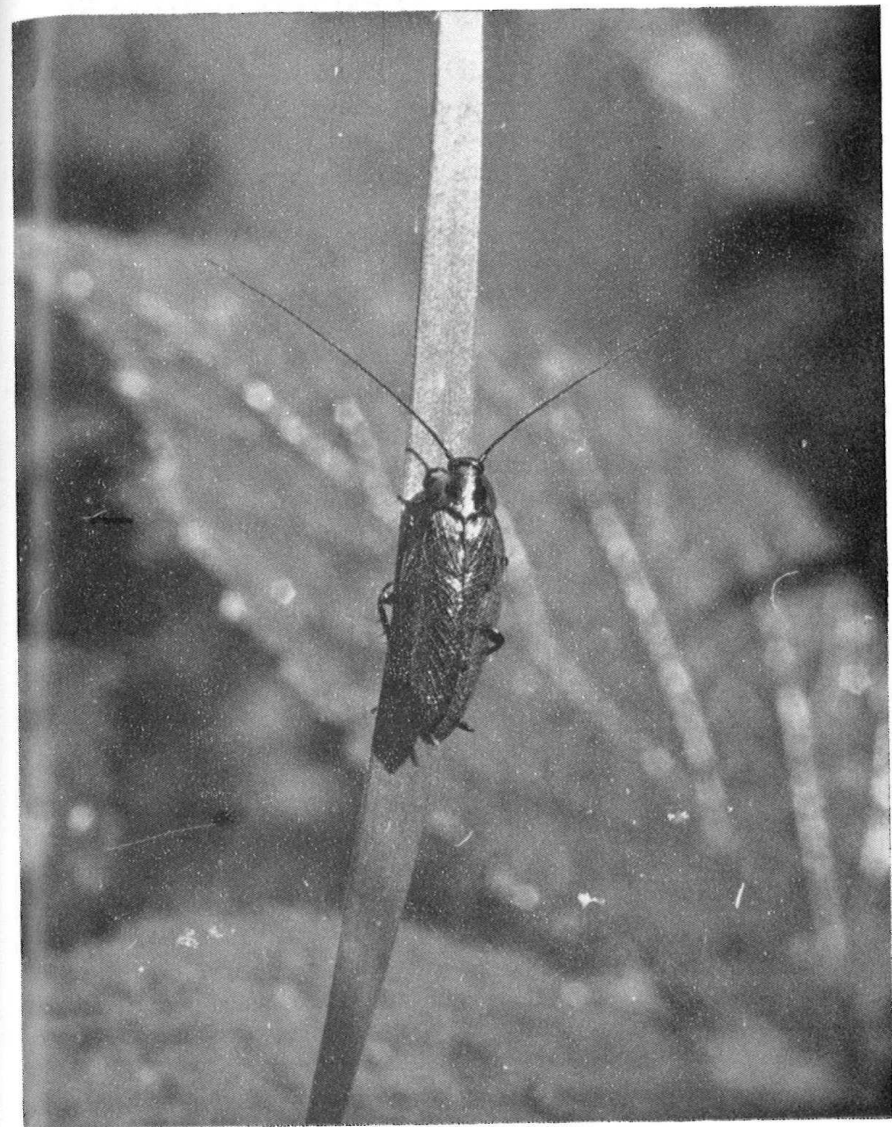
#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer is grateful to Dr. D. R. Ragge, British Museum (Natural History) for confirmation of determinations, and to the following for providing recent or past records: Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Bishop, Mr. J. Manwaring Baines, Dr. I. S. Menzies, Mr. F. P. Penfold and Miss M. Perowne.

#### REFERENCES

- BAINES, J. MANWARING, 1940. Orthoptera of the Hastings District. *Hastings E. Suss. Nat.*, 6(1): 10-13.
- KEVAN, D. K. MCE, 1961. A revised summary of the known distribution of British Orthopteroids. *Trans. Soc. Br. Ent.*, 14: 187-205.
- LUCAS, W. J., 1920. *A Monograph of the British Orthoptera*, London, Roy. Soc. xii+264 pp., 25 figs., 25 pls.
- RAGGE, D. R., 1965. *Grasshoppers, Crickets and Cockroaches of the British Isles*, Warne. xii+299 pp., 130 figs., 21 pls.

#### PLATE 5



*Ectobius lapponicus* (Linnaeus), ♂. Coates, West Sussex, 10.vii.1971.