

WILTSHIRE ORTHOPTEROIDS

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WILTSHIRE is indicated by Burr's (1936) distribution maps to be orthopterologically one of the least-known counties. It is true that Burr omitted to indicate from this county several species which had, in fact, been recorded thence and that certain additional species have been recorded subsequently (cf. Kevan, 1952, 1953), but, as with many other counties, records are still very few and far between. Even some of the commonest species do not seem to have received previous mention, although I am open to correction on this point. Casual collecting, occasionally assisted by my sons, has recently confirmed the existence of certain, mostly common, species in both north and south Wilts (vice-counties 7 and 8 respectively).

The following list of known Wiltshire Orthopteroids may therefore be of interest. New, or apparently new, vice-county records are marked with an asterisk [*]; previously doubtful records herein confirmed are indicated with a dagger [†]. The initials K and P in brackets following a vice-county entry indicate that the vice-county is included in the distribution of the species concerned by Kevan (1952) and Pickard (1954) respectively, but without precise localities.

DICTYOPTERA

Blatta orientalis L.

*North: Swindon, 1 ♂, without further data, from an old collection.

*South: Salisbury, shop, 3.viii.56, 1 ♀, St. Ann's St., 20.ix.56, 1 dead ♀ (R. T. Thompson).

Blatella germanica (L.) [*transfuga* (Brünn.)]

*North: Marlborough, shop, 10.viii.56, 1 ♀ (observed only).

*South: Salisbury, restaurant, 3.viii.56, 1 ♂.

Ectobius lapponicus (L.)

*North: Savernake Forest, among old fallen oak leaves etc., 13.viii.56, 1 ♀.

*South: New Forest NW. of Nomansland, as last, 12.viii.56, 1 ♀.

ORTHOPTERA—ENSIFERA

Meconema thalassinum (De G.)

North: Savernake Forest; Marlborough; Bedwyn (cf. Kevan, 1952) [P].

South: Whiteparish (cf. Andrewes, 1949); Tollard Royal near Salisbury (cf. Temple, 1950); Salisbury, Cathedral Close (No. 11), 18.ix.56, 1 ♀ (R. T. Thompson).

Tettigonia viridissima L.

South: Salisbury (cf. Kevan, 1953); 5 miles E. of Shaftesbury (inside Wilts), hedgerow, 8.viii.56, 1 ♂. [The species was very common on this date between Weymouth and the Lulworth Cove Road (Dorset)] [P].

Pholidoptera griseoptera (De G.)

North: West Wood near Marlborough (cf. Lucas, 1920); whole county shaded by Burr (1936); Savernake Forest, 10.viii.56, 2 ♂, 3 ♀, 1 nymph (very common in certain localities among rank herbage along forest traces). [K, P].

South: Although the whole county is included in Burr's 1936 distribution map, there seems to be no other published record for Wilts (S) before that of Temple (1950) for Tollard Royal near Salisbury. The following is also confirmatory: Grovely Woods (east), 5.viii.56, 1 ♀ [K, P].

Metriopectera brachyptera (L.)

*North: Savernake Forest, damp open patch, 10.viii.56, 1 ♀ (last instar nymph).

*South: New Forest NW. of Nomansland, 12.viii.56, 1 ♂ (nymph).

Leptophyes punctatissima (Bosc)

North: West Wood near Marlborough (cf. Lucas, 1920); whole county shaded by Burr (1936) [K, P].

South: Although the south of the county is included in Burr's (1936) distribution map, there appears to be no other published record for Wilts (S) before that of Temple (1950) for Tollard Royal near Salisbury. The following is also confirmatory: woods near Shearwater, S. of Warminster, 6.viii.56, 1 ♀ (last instar nymph) [K, P].

Gryllus campestris L.

South: Between Salisbury and Blandford (Dorset), possibly in Wilts (cf. Kevan, 1956); requires confirmation.

Acheta domesticus (L.)

*North: Avebury Manor, 10.viii.56, 1 ♀ (seen but not collected).

*South: Salisbury, bakery, 3.viii.56, 1 ♂; Cathedral Close boiler house, 30.viii.56, 1 ♀, and Old Mill Hotel, ix.56 (R. T. Thompson). Mr. Thompson also records it for Amesbury about 1928.

Nemobius sylvestris (Bosc)

South: Whiteparish (cf. Andrewes, 1949); New Forest NW. of Nomansland, 12.viii.56, 1 ♂, 1 ♀. [Colony less strong than those commonly found a few miles away near Burley (Hants S.), 7.viii.56] [K, P].

Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa (L.)

North: Hartmoor near Devizes (cf. Lucas, 1920) [K, P].

South: Apparently no record, but it may be noted that Imms (1947) indicates the whole county in his distribution map.

ORTHOPTERA—CAELIFERA

Tetrix subulata (L.)

North: Malmesbury (cf. Kevan, 1952) [P].

South: Salisbury (cf. Andrewes, 1949; Brown, 1950) [K, P].

Tetrix undulata (Swb.) [*vittata* (Zett.)]

North: Conkwell (cf. Kevan, 1952) [P].

*South: Near Nomansland (just in Wilts), 12.viii.56, 1 ♀.

Stenobothrus lineatus (Panz.)

*North: South Marlborough Downs, 10.viii.56, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

South: Witherington Down, near the Pepperbox (cf. Andrewes, 1949) [K, P].

Omocestus rufipes (Zett.) [*ventralis* (Zett.)]

*North: North margin of Savernake Forest near Marlborough, 10.viii.56, 1 ♂.

†South: Tollard Royal near Salisbury (cf. Temple, 1950)¹; fringe of woodland near Shearwater, S. of Warminster, 6.viii.56, 2 ♂, 2 ♀; edge of woods by Heaven's Gate, Long Leat, near Warminster, 6.viii.56, 1 ♀ [K, P].

Omocestus viridulus (L.)

North: Marlborough district (cf. Lucas, 1920); whole county shaded by Burr (1936); Castle Combe, 29.vi.52, 2 ♀ (*J. A. J. Smith*); near Avebury, 10.viii.56, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; near Marlborough, 10.viii.56, 2 ♀ [K, P].

†South: Although all Wilts is shaded by Burr (1936)—who says he has records from most of the English counties and that the species is common on the chalk downs—there appears to be no other published record of this common species from Wilts (S). The following are confirmatory: Win Green Hill, 2.viii.56, 3 ♂, 1 ♀; Winkelbury Hill, 2.viii.56, 2 ♀; Stoford, 7.viii.56, 2 ♀ [K, P].

¹ Specimens not checked by the present writer.

Chorthippus brunneus (Thunb.) [*bicolor* (Charp.)]

North: Marlborough district (cf. Lucas, 1920); Bedwyn, ix.42 (*K. G. Blair*) [no note of number of specimens]; N. of Devizes, near Avebury, near Marlborough, Savernake, all 10.vii.56, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ each [K, P].

South: Salisbury (cf. Andrewes, 1949); Winkelbury Hill, 2.viii.56, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; eastern edge of Grovely Woods and Great Wishford, both 5.viii.56, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ each; Stoford, 7.viii.56, 2 ♂, 2 ♀; Wilton, 8.viii.56, 1 ♀; near Nomansland (in Wilts), 12.viii.56, 1 ♂; Amesbury, 13.viii.56, 1 ♀. Mr. Thompson also records it as numerous at Old Sarum, 12.ix.56 [K, P].

Chorthippus parallelus (Zett.)

North: Marlborough district (cf. Lucas, 1920); whole county shaded by Burr (1936); Castle Combe, 29.vi.52, 3 ♂, 2 ♀, 1 nymph (*J. A. J. Smith*); N. of Devizes, Avebury, Marlborough, Savernake, all 10.viii.56, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ each [K, P].

South: Although the south of the county is included in Burr's (1936) distribution map there appears to be no other published record for Wilts (S) before that of Temple (1950) for Tollard Royal, Salisbury. The following are also confirmatory: near Winkelbury Hill, 2.viii.56, 1 ♂, 2 ♀; eastern edge of Grovely Woods and Great Wishford, both 5.viii.56, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ each; Stoford, 7.viii.56, 5 ♂, 6 ♀; Wilton, 8.viii.56, 1 ♀; near Nomansland (in Wilts), 12.viii.56, 2 ♂, 2 ♀; Amesbury, 13.viii.56, 1 ♂, 1 ♀. Mr. Thompson also records it as numerous at Old Sarum, 12.ix.56 [K, P].

Chorthippus albomarginatus (De G.)

*South: Between Wilton and Great Wishford, damp meadow, 11.viii.56, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

Myrmeleotettix maculatus (Thunb.)

*North: Stated by Kevan (1952) to be recorded from every English vice-county, but there appears, in fact, to be no published record for Wilts (N) since the following was not included: near Bedwyn, ix.42, 1 ♀ (*K. G. Blair*). A recent record is: N. of Savernake Forest, near Marlborough, 13.viii.56, 1 ♀ [K, P].

South: Witherington Down, near the Pepperbox (cf. Andrewes, 1949); near Nomansland (in Wilts), 12.viii.56, 1 ♀ [K, P].

DERMAPTERA

Labia minor (L.)

*North: Savernake, 13.viii.56, 1 ♀.

*South: Great Wishford, 5.viii.56, 1 ♀.

Forficula lesnei Finot

†North: Burr (1936) shades the whole of Wilts in his distribution map for this species, but there appears to be no other published record for Wilts (N). Its occurrence in the vice-county is confirmed, however, by the late Dr. K. G. Blair: Bedwyn, vii. 39, 1 ♀ [K].

South: "Salisbury" (cf. Burr, 1897); a single specimen collected by Curtis at "Wilton near Salisbury" (cf. Lucas, 1920) seems to refer to the same record; Burr (1936) includes south Wilts in his distribution map (see above) [K].

Forficula auricularia L.

This species is ubiquitous throughout the British Isles (cf. Lucas, Burr, Kevan, *l. c.*), but any precise records in most counties are lacking. It is ubiquitous also in Wiltshire, but the following localities may be noted for the sake of the record:

†North: North of Devizes, Avebury, Marlborough, Savernake, 10.viii.56, abundant everywhere [K]; *f. *forcipata* taken in last locality.

†South: Salisbury, Wilton, Great Wishford, Grovely Woods, Stoford, Amesbury, viii.56, abundant everywhere [K]; *f. *forcipata* taken at Stoford.

In addition to the above native species or established aliens, two casuals are known from Wilts (N) (specimens in British Museum), namely the bush cricket *Jamaicana subguttata* (Wlk.) and the cockroach *Blaberus discoidalis* Serv.: both ex bananas, Swindon, 1929 (*E. J. Pearce*). There are doubtless others.

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