

ON THE COLEOPTERA OF THE DISTRICT
AROUND LIVERPOOL.

By Mr. C. S. Gregson.

READ 20TH DECEMBER, 1860.

It is about three years since I promised Dr. Hume to prepare a list of the Coleoptera found within twelve miles of the Exchange, and, in partial redemption of that promise, I now lay before you the present list of the Geodephaga or Carabidæ.

In preparing it I have been, if possible, even more careful to ascertain the exact locality for each species, than in my lists of the Lepidoptera; as I have not had the assistance of one helping hand, every locality given is the result of personal labour, and every locality has been again visited during the last three seasons to ascertain that my earlier notes were correct.

The British species of Geodephaga number about three hundred, and this list reaches about one hundred and thirty; I possess a few species not yet clearly defined, so that we may hope ere long to reach one-half of the known British species in our own locality. The absence, in our districts, of fresh-water rivers, which have a tendency to bring down mountain species during floods, will account in some measure for the non-appearance in the list of such species as *Pterostichus*, *Aterrimus* and *Æthiops*, and we can only hope to add to them by searching such localities as Bidston Hill, Prenton or Heswell Hill; but, being entirely without fellow-labourers in this branch of study, I have not been able to

give that attention to these districts which they require before they will render up their treasures, and as I am not aware that a line has been written on our Coleoptera by any one before me, I have not been able to take advantage of what may have been done by others. Resting the list, then, entirely upon my own labour, I must claim your indulgence if it is thought incomplete; but feeling how utterly useless it is to expect these lists to be perfect, and presuming it is better to have an imperfect list, which others can add to, than to have no list at all of the wonderful creatures living with and around us, I place my labours in the hands of the Society; my only hope being that, should any one traverse the ground I have gone over after this most beautiful, useful and interesting group of Coleoptera, he may have the same amount of pleasure and healthy recreation as I have enjoyed whilst in search of these insects.

ORDER COLEOPTERA.

SECTION I.—GEODEPHAGA, MacLeay.

CICINDELIDÆ.

GENUS CICINDELA, Linn.

- C. Hybrida*, Linn.—Plentiful upon the bare sand hills at New Brighton, and at Crosby. Spring and Autumn.
C. Campestris, Linn.—On the moorlands around Claughton and Bidston, also on the mosses. April and May.
C. Maritima? Said to have been taken—not yet seen by me within the district.

GENUS DEMETRIAS, Bon.

- D. Atricapillus*, Linn.—Sand hills at Wallasey, amongst tufts of long grass.
D. Unipunctatus, Ger.—With the foregoing in Spring.

GENUS DROMIUS, Bon.

- D. Linearis*, Oliv.—May be taken with the two preceding species.

- D. Agilis*, Fab.—Wherever old willows grow, under the rough bark.
- D. Quadrimaculatus*, Linn.—With the preceding species. Spring and Autumn.
- D. Quadrisignatus*, Dej.—Under bark of willows growing by the side of the Birket, in Upton Valley.
- D. Melanocephalus*, Dej.—On the shore under rubbish, and on the sand hills in tufts of grass at Crosby. Spring.

GENUS BLECHRUS, Mots.

- B. Glabratus*, Duf.—With the preceding.

GENUS METABLETUS, Sch.

- M. Foveola*, Gyll.—In profusion amongst the sallow beds at Crosby. Search under the moss and dead leaves on the ground.

GENUS LAMPRIAS, Bon.

- L. Chlorocephala*, Ent. H.—On the banks of the river Alt, at Sefton.

SCARITIDÆ.

GENUS CLIVINA, Lat.

- C. Fossor*, Linn.—On the banks of the Alt and Dey's Brook, where it is a little sandy, and banks of the Birket.
- C. Collaris*, Her.—With *Fossor*. June to Autumn.

GENUS DYSCHIRIUS, Panz.

- D. Nitidus?* Daw.—There is still a question as to this species being distinct or not; be this as it may, I think it safer to introduce it here; it may be taken in the swampy bottoms on the sand hills at Crosby, in June.
- D. Politus*, Dej.—I have twice met with this species freely; they were found each time in the large valley on Wallasey sand hills, opposite to Wallasey Village, on very hot afternoons in June, on the damp sand.
- D. Salinus*, Scha.—This species, the easiest of the large species in the genus to distinguish, is attached to the borders of any little streams which run into the river on the sand hills at Waterloo or Crosby. Its dull appearance and elongated form enable us to know it at once.

- D. Impunctipennis*, Daw.—Of all the species in the genus this seems to have given most trouble to our writers; it may be separated at once by the form of the foot. Sand hills, Crosby, &c. April and May.
- D. Thoracicus*, Fab.; *Obscurus*, Gyll.—This species, the most common and most variable of the genus, may be taken from tide-mark to the edge of the sand hills. June, July, August and September.
- D. Globosus*, Herb.—Plentiful in some damp holes near the public-house at Little Brighton, Crosby. May.

CARABIDÆ.

GENUS CYCHRUS, Fab.

- C. Rostratus*, Linn.—Common in woods.

GENUS CARABUS, Duct.

- C. Catenulatus*, Scop.—Anywhere under rubbish and old stones.
- C. Monilis*, Fab.—Is not a common species with us. I met with it first in Edge-lane; since then I have taken it in various localities throughout West Derby and once at Liscard. Mr. Johnson took several at Firgrove and Yellow House, by baiting. Mr. Cooke showed me one taken near his house at New Brighton.
- C. Arvensis*, Fab.—I have been told this was taken at Prenton Hill, a likely place but not quite high enough; I never met with it under 1,000 feet high on the mountains—shall look for it at Prenton.
- C. Granulatus*, Linn. — Plentiful around West Derby. Summer.
- C. Nitens*, Linn.—Sand hills and swamps in May and Autumn, sunning itself on bare damp places on the mosses in May—common.
- C. Violaceus*, Linn.—Plentiful in West Derby and Liscard under rubbish, stones &c. Spring and Autumn.
- C. Nemoralis*, Müll.—Not common with us, yet may be found with the above sometimes.

GENUS LEISTUS, Fröhl.

- L. Spinibarbis*, Fab.—Eastham Wood, at the foot of trees and under stones. Winter and Spring.

- L. Fulvibarbis*, Dej.—Jackson's Wood, Claughton; and Birch Wood, Woolton; found as the above.
- L. Ferrugineus*, Linn.—Crosby, edges of the sand hills. July.
- L. Rufescens*, Fab.—Birch Wood, and upon Crosby sand hills. Not scarce in July.

GENUS NEBRIA, Lat.

- N. Brevicollis*, Fab.—The commonest beetle we have. Summer or Winter, under stones.
- N. Gyllenhalii*, Schö.—I have two I took near Burscough Bridge, among a heap of stones.

GENUS PELOPHILA, Dej.

- P. Borealis*? Payk.—Two specimens in my cabinet from Bromborough I refer to this species.

GENUS ELAPHRUS, Fab.

- E. Cupreus*, Dufts.—In profusion around the lake in the sand hills at Crosby, near Bousfield's encampment ground. June.
- E. Riparius*, Linn.—With the preceding. May, June and July.

GENUS BLETHISA, Bon.

- B. Multipunctata*, Linn.—I possess only two specimens, one of which I took with the two preceding species at Crosby, but could never find any more: the other was not taken within our district.

GENUS NOTIOPHILUS, Dum.

- N. Aquaticus*, Linn.—Always with the *Genus Elaphrus* at Crosby, and in other swamps around Liverpool.
- N. Palustris*, Dufts.—On the banks of streams, particularly if sandy loam abounds.
- N. Rufipes*? Curtis.—In my garden in Edge-lane.
- N. Semipunctatus*? Fab.—Plentiful everywhere.

CHLÆNIIDÆ.

GENUS LORICERA, Lat.

- L. Pilicornis*, Fab.—One of our very commonest insects,

GENUS BADISTER, Cla.

B. Bipustulatus, Fab.—Prenton Wood, Stourton Quarry and Huyton Quarry. March to June.

GENUS CHLENIS, Bon.

C. Nigricornis, Fab.—Banks of the Birket, and Knowsley Quarry. April and May—fine.

GENUS POGONUS, Dej.

P. Chalceus, Mar.—On the shore above Eastham under stones. June.

P. Littoralis, Dufts.—With *Chalceus*; and at Garston, on the shore about high water mark.

GENUS PRISTONYCHUS.

P. Terricola, Her.—Common in damp cellars and out-houses under pieces of wood in Winter.

GENUS SPHODRUS, Cla.

S. Leucophthalmus, Linn.—One taken in Murray Street and one seen crushed in the street behind St. John's Market are all I have seen; doubtless plentiful in the poulterers' cellars under the market; lives amongst feathers &c.

GENUS CALATHUS, Bon.

C. Piceus, Mars.—A plentiful insect on the Cheshire side under stones in fields.

C. Cisteloides, Pan.—Common in the poor land around the sand hills.

C. Flavipes, Fau.—A common sand hill insect.

C. Fuscus, Fab.—Is rare here, so far as I know. Two specimens taken at Patrick Wood are all I have seen.

C. Mollis, Mar.—In every overhanging bank on the sand hills.

C. Melanocephalus, Linn. In profusion under stones after rain in the poor lands around the sand hills.

GENUS SYNUCHUS, Gyll.

S. Vivalis, Pan.—On the banks of the river Alt, at Hightown. Not often to be found.

GENUS ANCHOMENUS, Auct.

- A. Junceus*, Sco.—Plentiful in damp marshy ground; comes freely to sugar.
- A. Dorsalis*, Müll.—This elegant insect is common everywhere.
- A. Pallipes*, Fab.—Under stones in the beds of brooks everywhere.

GENUS AGONUM, Bon.

- A. Marginatus*, Linn.—In the brook at the Copper Works, Seacombe, and in the brook at Crosby &c., beautiful and plentiful.
- A. Ericeti*, Pan.—On Simonswood and other mosses; scarce. I have one taken on Claughton Heath.
- A. Mæstus*, Dufts.—Plentiful.
- A. Lævis*, Müll.—Common.
- A. Viduus*, Pan.—Common.
- A. Fuliginosus*, Pan.—Is a scarce species, so far as I know; Eastham and Hooton being the only places I have seen it at.
- A. Piceus*, Linn.—The above remarks apply to this species, except that I have also taken it at Raby Mere.
- A.* ?—Not yet determined. From the same localities.

GENUS OLISTHOPUS, Dej.

- O. Rotundatus*, Pay.—I have a single specimen of this species taken in April at Stourton Hill, a locality which is not yet half worked.

FERONIIDÆ.

GENUS PTEROSTICHUS, Auct.

- P. Cupreus*, Linn.—Not uncommon under stones at the mouths of brooks where they join the salt water; bad to find elsewhere.
- P. Striola*, Fab.—Abundant in cellars and out-houses.
- P. Niger*, Ill.—Often taken with *Striola*, but distinguishable at sight by its white eyes and more slender form.
- P. Parumpunctatus*, Ger.—Around Bidston under stones.
- P. Oblongopunctatus*, Fab.—I possess a pair taken many years ago, but have no memoranda of them.

- P. Mandidus*, Fab.—Every variety of this variable species may be found plentifully around Bidston Hill under stones.
- P. Orinomus*, Steph.—Raby Mere and Sutton are the only places I have met with it at. Spring.
- P. Melanarius*, Ill.—May be found in damp out-houses about farm yards.
- P. Nigrita*, Fab.—Plentiful in the brook at the Dingle in Spring, under stones &c.
- P. Anthracinus*, Ill.—Under rejectamenta on the banks of the river Alt, near Hightown.
- P. Minor*, Sahl.—Everywhere under anything in damp places.

GENUS ARGUTOR.

- A. Verinalis*, Gyll.—Plentiful.
- A. Inaequalis*, Marsh.—I have only one specimen and do not know where I got it.
- A. Strenuus*, Pan.—Is plentiful on the sides of brooks under rejectamenta after floods.

GENUS STOMIS, Cla.

- S. Pumicatus*, Pan.—Is rather scarce on the banks of the river Alt, at Sefton, in June.

GENUS BROSCUS, Pan.

- B. Cephalotes*, Linn.—This is the only carabideous beetle I do not like handling; its peculiar smell is very offensive to me: the insect is confined to the sand hills and may be found in May and June, particularly under drift-wood.

GENUS AMARA, Bon.

- A. Obsoleta*, Dej.—About Wallasey Pool, plentiful.
- A. Similata*.—Is not scarce in the same place and elsewhere.
- A. Acuminata*, Pay.—This fine species was not plentiful where I have collected it. Wallasey Pool—now a dock.
- A. Trivialis*.—Abundant on fine days in Spring on the roads.
- A. Spreta*, Dej.—I have only two specimens; they were taken amongst *trivialis* and the following—
- A. Vulgaris*, Linn.—This beautiful and active *Amara* is always to be seen on the roads on the first fine days in Spring.

- A. Tibialis*, Pay.—Seems confined to the sand hills, where any quantity may be got by shaking tufts of grass in April and May, especially near Leasowe Castle.
- A. Communis*, Gyll.—Common and beautiful.
- A. Curta*, Dej., non. St.—One pair taken at West Kirby are all I have seen.
- A. Familiaris*, Dufts.—Plentiful in Spring anywhere.
- A. Lucida*, Dufts.—I possess two, one only of which was got within the district. Frankby, June, 1859.
- A. Strenua*, Zim.—I have a pair, but have no record of their capture. I took them, however, amongst *A. Vulgaris* and *Familiaris*.

GENUS CELIA, Zim.

- C. Orichalcica*, Müll.—Mrs. Gregson captured me a fine pair of this rare species, on the sand hills between Southport and Crosby, perhaps a mile beyond our district. Let it be well looked for nearer home in June.

GENUS BRADYTUS, St.

- B. Apricaria*, Fab.—The above were taken in company with this species; let every one of the *red antennæ* species be examined carefully for the above, and for the chance of finding *C. Brunca* amongst them.
- A. Fulva*, Deg.—Fine and plentiful on the coast.
- A. Spinipes*, Linn.—Near the water mill at Sefton, under rejectamenta, September, 1857-58.

HARPALIDÆ, Waterh.

GENUS ANISODACTYLUS, Dej.

- A. Binotatus*, Fab.—Wallasey Pool under stones.

GENUS HARPALUS, Lat.

- H. Azureus*, Fab.—With the above.
- H. Pubescens*, Pay.—With the above, plentiful. Spring.
- H. Ruficornis*, Fab.—In gardens, common. Summer.
- H. Æneus*, Fab.—Wallasey Pool, on the littoral of the river.
- H. Fulvipes*, Fab.—Under stones near gates of fields on roads.
- H. Rubripes*, Dufts.—With the above.

H. Cupreus, Dej.—I have three I took where the Great Float is now made at Birkenhead, August, 1858.

H. Anxius, Duft.—I have a few taken around Puddington and Sutton, under rejectamenta in brooks.

GENUS STENOLOPHUS, Meg.

S. Elegans? Dej.—Two taken on the banks of the Alt at Hightown, June, 1859.

S. Meridianus, Linn.—Two taken with the above, one taken by Sergeant Johnson, in West Derby, but no exact locality given.

GENUS BRADYCELLUS, Er.

B. Cognatus, Gyll.—Under stones on Bidston Hill, in April.

B. Fulvus, Marsh.—Under stones on the shore. Spring.

B. Collaris? Pay.—Bidston Hill. Spring.

B. Similis, Dej.—Bidston Hill in tufts of heath; September. Also on the mosses; Sergeant Johnston, 1860.

GENUS TRECHUS, Cla.

T. Discus, Fab.—Under overhanging banks of the river Alt, between Hightown and Sefton where the soil is loamy. Shake the bank down and watch for them; secure as soon as seen or they are gone. June and July.

T. Micros, Hebst.—With *Discus*, not so pretty or so quick.

T. Rubens, Fab.—Frequents the same places as *Discus*, but is generally over before that species is out.

T. Lapidus, Dawson.—All the so called *Lapidus* I have seen are immature specimens of *Rubens* or *Discus*.

T. Minutus, Fab.—Plentiful in gardens and waste places.

T. Secalis, Payk.—Sandy banks of the Alt, in June. Not common.

BEMBIBIDÆ, Waterh.

GENUS CILLENUM, Curtis.

C. Littorale, Sam.—On the shore at Aigburth under stones below high water mark, where there is clay amongst the stones, also near the Ferry at Eastham. This beetle is covered every tide. Spring and June.

BEMBIDIUM, Lat.

B. Obtusum? Stur.—On the banks of the Alt at Sefton. September.

- B. Biguttatum*, Fab.—At Garston, near the Salt Works, on the banks of the brook there.
- B. Æneum*.—Very common in Wallasey Pool in Spring.
- B. Rufescens*, Gué.—Plentiful with *Æneum*.
- B. Femoratum*, Stu.—Also abundant with the above and in Autumn.
- B. Concinnum*, Steph.—Plentiful where the shore is clayey on the banks of pools on the river.
- B. Bruxellense*? Wes.—I have a single specimen. I refer to this species with doubt. I took it on the shore at Aigburth, in August, 1858.
- B. Littorale*, Oli.—Common and variable, but may be known from every other species by its peculiar smell, whatever its marking or shape may be.
- B. Lunatum*, Dufts.—The finest *Bembid* in the genus, is local in Wallasey and Bromborough Pools, but not scarce when found, under stones or overhanging banks.
- B. Saxatile*, Gyll.—When on the Aigburth shore with my friend Mr. Haward, of London, July, 1858, I took a single specimen of this beautiful species. Many journeys since made have been fruitless.
- B. Decorum*, Pan.—In the brooks around Raby, and in the Birket under stones. June.
- B. Stomoides*, Dej.—Having taken this species with my friend J. B. Hodgkinson, on the river Ribble, at Preston, in June, 1859, I tried for it in July, at Hightown. After a long walk up the river side, I met with it within our district: it was not scarce.
- B. Monticulum*, Sturn.—This species was in company with the above.
- B. Nitidulum*, Marsh.—I took freely the day I got *Saxatile*.
- B. Affine*, Steph.—I have always found scarce at the Aigburth clay banks, yet my friend Mr. Haward once took it freely there.
- B. Tibiale*, Dufts.—Common in the brooks on the Cheshire side, and at Dey's Brook.
- B. Ehippium*? Mer.—I have a few I refer to this species, but am not quite sure about it. I took them at Orrell.
- B. Lampros*, Herb.—Common in gardens.

- B. Pusillum*, Gyll.—This pretty little species is not scarce in tufts of grass on the shore where there are muddy creeks, as at Bromborough. Autumn.
- B. Doris* ? Pan.—Here, again, I cannot speak with certainty without more specimens, but think two specimens, taken with the preceding, will prove true *Doris*.
- B. Quadriguttatum*, Fab.—Plentiful under bark of willows, growing on the bank of the brook between Upton and Moreton road.
- B. Quadrimaculatum*, Linn.—With the preceding. Equally plentiful.
- B. Bipunctatum*, Linn.—Freely on the shore beyond Crosby, at high water mark where there was a little mud. June, 1858-59.
- B. Velox*, Linn.—On the banks of the Birket, above Upton, under stones &c.
- B. Pallidipenne*, Ill.—In profusion on the shore at high water mark, at Crosby, under loose sand and rejectamenta. June.
- B. Paludosum*, Pan.—A single specimen from Raby Mere is all I have seen within our district. April, 1858. So cold I could not look for more.
- B. Flavipes*, Linn.—Was common where I got the preceding.
- B. Pallipes*, Dufts.—In a damp hollow near the bridge across the Alt, at Hightown. Common. June.
-