

Polymerus nigrinus (Fallén)

Large numbers of adults and larvae of the fourth and fifth instars were swept off *Galium aparine* L. growing luxuriantly along a fence near the Isle of Wight enclosure. Kullenberg (1946) associates this species in Sweden with *G. boreale* L. and *G. verum* L. and Butler (1923) more especially with these bedstraws in chalky and sandy places, although mentioning finding it in some numbers on *G. aparine*. However, whenever I have found *P. nigrinus* in southern England in numbers, it has always been on a luxuriant growth of *G. aparine* and I am convinced that this is the major host here.

Hoplomachus thunbergi (Fallén)

Several adults of this active bug were swept from its normal host plant *Hieracium pilosella* L., growing on a slight mound near central path just south of Isle of Wight enclosure. It is not recorded from Bookham Common by Leston (1951).

REFERENCES

- BUTLER, E. A., 1923, *A Biology of the British Hemiptera-Heteroptera*. London, 696 pp.
KULLENBERG, B., 1946, Studien über die Biologie der Capsiden. *Zool. Bidrag. Uppsala*, 23: (suppl.), 521 pp.
LESTON, D., 1951, Notes on the Hemiptera-Heteroptera of Bookham Common, *Lond. Naturalist*, 1951: 49-62.

EARLY EMERGENCES in 1957.—In an interesting note in *The Entomologist* (1957, 90 : 136) C. G. M. de Worms draws attention to the very early dates of appearance of various species of Lepidoptera. He attributes this to "the remarkably mild weather which prevailed during the first three months of the year (1957)". It seems likely that conditions in the previous autumn and late summer must also have played some part in inducing the early emergence of certain species. This is suggested to us for the following reason: We reared quite a variety of Lepidoptera from the caterpillar to chrysalis stage and then, as usual, overwintered them in breeding cages in a corner of the bathroom. There is nothing to suggest that conditions in this bathroom vary much from one winter to another, but in 1957 we had some extraordinarily early emergences compared with other years. For example, an Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*) hatched in January and several Large Whites (*Pieris brassicae*) did likewise. Two Privet Hawk Moths (*Sphinx ligustri*) hatched during the first week in March and the Large Elephant (*Deilephila elpenor*) and Small Elephant (*D. porcellus*) were out even earlier.—CHARLES LANE and MIRIAM ROTHSCHILD; Elsfield Manor, Oxford.