

GLOBICEPS SALICICOLA REUTER* (HEM., MIRIDAE)
NEW TO BRITAIN

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SINCE the removal of *Globiceps dispar* (Boh.) to *Mecomma* Fieb. (Southwood and Woodroffe, 1957) the genus *Globiceps* Lep. and Serv. has been represented in Britain by two closely allied species, *cruciatus* Reut. and *flavomaculatus* F. Both are uncommon insects, inhabiting marshy areas with willows (*Salix* spp.) though, at least in the case of *cruciatus*, the composition of the ground flora is also important (see Woodroffe, 1958). In both species the females are normally brachypterous and the males always macropterous.

On June 16, 1956 I obtained many nymphs and a few adults of a species of *Globiceps* by sweeping heath (*Calluna vulgaris* (L.) Hull and *Erica cinerea* L.) among scattered pines (*Pinus sylvestris* L.) on a sandy hillside near the summit of Blackdown, Sussex, near Haslemere, Surrey, at an altitude of about 900 ft. Nymphs were found also on the ground among the plants. Neither *flavomaculatus* nor *cruciatus* was likely to occur in such a situation so a second visit was made on June 26, 1956. The population was then largely adult and many more specimens were taken. The fact that most females were macropterous confirmed my idea that the species was neither of the two known to date as British. Some of the nymphs were reared in captivity but they were strongly carnivorous, especially in the last instar, and much cannibalism occurred in spite of the provision of an abundance of aphids. I have also taken the species more recently by sweeping *Erica* and *Calluna* among birch scrub (*Betula* sp.) at Witley Common, near Godalming, Surrey, on July 8, 1958.

Comparison of the material from Blackdown with British *cruciatus* and *flavomaculatus* confirmed the impression gained in the field that they represented a distinct species, but they failed to run down satisfactorily in Wagner's key (Wagner, 1952). However, Dr. T. R. E. Southwood drew my attention to the fact that Dr.

* Wagner (*in litt.*) disagrees with some of Cobben's findings and proposes to pursue further the problem of the European *Globiceps*. He also considers it possible that the species dealt with here may prove to be distinct from, though closely allied to, *salicicola*, but whether at specific or subspecific level is not yet certain. Consequently it may prove necessary to change the name of the British insect when his investigations are complete and published.