

WICKEN FEN REVIVAL

Wicken Fen is renowned for its beetle fauna, with 1,463 species from 72 families. The first edition of a new series of a Wicken Fen newsletter includes records of *Berosus affinis* Brullé, *Hygrotus confluens* (Fab.) and *Enochrus nigrinus* (Sharp), the former two significant because they have colonised newly created habitats on more recently acquired land – also *Halipilus laminatus* (Schaller), the first record for 40 years, depressingly the previous one being the editor's when a skinny student. This newsletter can be obtained from s.warrington@nationaltrust.org.uk: it gives information on how to obtain permits and so on.

DRANE A & WARRINGTON S 2006. Coleoptera: beetles at Wicken, past and present. *Wicken Fen Recording and Research Newsletter* 1 5-6.

CAIRNGORMS

SHAW P & THOMPSON D (eds) 2006 *The Nature of the Cairngorms. Diversity in a changing environment*. Stationery Office, Edinburgh. ISBN 0 114 97326 1. Copy through Amazon £21.75 including dispatch.

The Cairngorm is the massif between Glen Feshie and Braemar in north-east Scotland. The area, about 6,500 km², five of Scotland's ten highest peaks, rising to 1,309 m asl on Ben Macdui. This tome is also a massif, 444 pages of high quality paper with superb colour photographs and remarkably good value at £20. About 25 pages are devoted to invertebrates including a listing of species by habitat. The list is only for Nationally Rare species, defined as known from 1-15 10 km squares. The water beetles listed are *Donacia aquatica* L., *Ilybius wasastjernae* (Sahlberg) (as an *Agabus*) and, scraping in as a hydrophilid, the deer dung specialist (horse dung in Gloucestershire) *Cercyon alpinus* Vogt. *D. aquatica* gets by if the grid square is based on recent records only, but, if it is not, then the missing species are *Laccornis oblongus* (Stephens), *Acilius canaliculatus* (Nicolai) and *Hydrochus brevis* (Herbst). The overall analysis in chapter 23 reveals that 32 per cent of the nationally important species are invertebrates, with 169 species of fly outstripping 93 species of beetle.

THOSE RED CARS AGAIN - HERE COMES THE SCIENCE

Latissimus doesn't often get cited in *Proc. Roy. Soc. B* so thanks Manfred! And read on to know how to be more environmentally friendly! Red and black horizontal plastic sheets are attraction to aquatic insects but yellow and white ones are not. The reflection-polarisation patterns of black, yellow, red and white cars were measured in the red, green and blue parts of the spectrum. In blue and green the degree of linear polarisation of light reflected from black and red cars is high, and the direction of polarisation from roofs, bonnets and boots (trunks) is nearly horizontal. Horizontal surfaces are highly attractive to red-blind beetles. It follows that if you want to avoid killing such insects inadvertently have a yellow or white car, but if you want to catch them..... You'll need a colour copy of this paper to see what the beetles see.

KRISKA G, CSABAI Z, BODA P, MALIK P & HORVÁTH G 2006. Why do red and dark-coloured cars lure aquatic insects? The attraction of water insects to car paintwork explained by reflection-polarization signals. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 273 1667-1671.

AUSTRALASIAN HYDROCANTHUS

Five species of *Hydrocanthus* are reviewed including two species, *balkei* from Irian Jaya and *pederzanii* from NE Queensland. The total number of known species is 53.

TOLEDO M & HENDRICH L 2006. Taxonomic revision of the Australasian *Hydrocanthus* Say 1833, with description of two new species (Coleoptera: Noteridae). *Linzer biol. Beitr.* 38 (1) 935-952.